

## Point of Care Risk Assessment for Transfers

### What is it?

A point of care risk assessment for transfers is a quick mini-appraisal you, the health care worker, do to make sure a resident's abilities still match what's in their care plan. It doesn't replace the typical risk assessment completed as part of a resident's care plan. Rather, it's a tool you use *in addition* to the care plan assessments.

### Why do it?

People's abilities change – sometimes hourly. A person who was able to transfer with minimal assistance in the morning may not be able to do so in the afternoon. To keep yourself and the resident safe, it's important to assess a resident's abilities *before and during* a transfer.

### Who does it?

The person providing care does the point of care risk assessment. This can be a care aide, a nurse aide, an orderly, a licensed practical nurse, or a registered nurse. The bottom line – if you're moving a resident, do a point of care risk assessment first!

### How do I do it?

A point of care risk assessment has four areas that you cover, with questions in each area.

Environment	Care Plan	Self (Worker)	Resident
Is it safe?	Have I checked the care plan?	Am I able to carry out the task?	Is the resident ready?
Do I have the right set-up? (e.g. bed at the right height? Brakes locked?)	Has the care plan changed?	Am I focused?	Is anything affecting his strength or ability to follow direction? (e.g. tired, confused?)
Do I have enough room to move?	Do I understand my task?	Am I rushing?	Using the Mobility Decision Support Tool, can he: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sit &amp; lean forward?</li> <li>- Lift his buttocks up off the bed/chair?</li> <li>- Side-step or shuffle?</li> </ul>
Do I have the right equipment?			

If you **identify something** that could be **unsafe, stop. Use another approach** (e.g. mechanical lift) and/or **ask for help**. In all cases, follow your facility's procedures to **report a temporary change in resident functional status** and/or **request a reassessment**.

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