

Point of Care Assessment For Transfers



What is it?

A point of care assessment for transfers is a quick mini-appraisal you, the health care worker, do to make sure a person's abilities still match what's in their care plan. It doesn't replace the typical risk assessment completed as part of a person'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 could transfer with minimal assistance in the morning may not be able to do so in the afternoon. To keep yourself and the person in care safe, it's important to assess a person's abilities before and during a transfer.

Who does it?

The care giver does the point of care assessment. If you're moving a person, do a point of care assessment first.

How do I do it?

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

PERSON IN CARE	ENVIRONMENT	TASK	YOURSELF
What do I see and hear?	Is the area safe?	Does this task need to be done right now?	Am I settled?
Is the person ready?	Is this the right height for my task?	Have I checked the care plan?	Can I do the task safely?
Can they follow direction?	Is there a risk of the bed/ chair moving while completing my task?	Are there any changes to the care plan?	Am I focussed?
Can they lean forward sitting, lift their buttocks off the bed, step or shuffle?	Do I have space, and do I have what I need?	Do I understand the task?	Am I rushing?
			Is my positioning correct?

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 organization's procedures to report a temporary change in the person's functional status and/or request a reassessment.

Below is a supplementary poster that you can refer to and share within your organization.

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- 1.** A point-of-care assessment is a series of questions to ask yourself about the person in care, environment, the task and you, as the care giver.
- 2.** This quick, informal check-in reminds you to observe both the person for signs of physical or cognitive changes and the environment for potential risk.
- 3.** Employers have a responsibility to support the use of a point of a care assessment by sharing it with staff, and providing instructions on what to do if risks are identified.

