

BED RAIL SAFETY INFORMATION & INFORMED CONSENT FORM

In regards to residents receiving services in a home care setting, and patients in hospitals and nursing homes, here are some startling statistics. Between 1985 and 2009, 803 incidents of patients caught, trapped, entangled or strangled in beds with side rails were reported to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Of these reports, 480 people died, 138 had a nonfatal injury, and 185 were not injured because staff intervened. Most patients were frail, elderly or confused.

- 1. More serious injuries can occur from falls IF and when you should climb over the rails.*
- 2. Skin can get bruised, cut and scraped.*
- 3. Side rails can induce agitation IF the rail is perceived as a restraint.*
- 4. Social isolation can occur IF the rail unnecessarily restricts you.*
- 5. Side rails can prevent you from performing routine activities such as going to the bathroom.*

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- o Is the resident confused, restless, and/or lack of muscle control?*
- o Does the resident have a seizure disorder?*
- o Does the resident try to climb out of bed?*
- o Does the side rail impede the resident's freedom of movement?*
- o Risk vs. benefits of side rail use has been discussed with family and resident?*
- o Does the mattress fit the bed without gaps present between mattress and side rails?*
- o Does the resident move when sleeping?*

Resident requested for:

SAFETY SECURITY MOBILITY AID

Cognitive Ability:

<i>Alert and oriented</i>	<i>Alert and Confused</i>	<i>Decreased or no safety awareness (unsafe attempts to get out of bed)</i>
<i>Intermittent Confusion</i>	<i>Delirium</i>	<i>other</i>

Bed Mobility:

<i>Turning side to side</i>	<i>Moving up and down in bed</i>	<i>Hold self to one side</i>	<i>Assist with sitting up</i>
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Transfers:

<i>Improving Balance</i>	<i>Entering bed more safely</i>	<i>Supporting self</i>	<i>Transferring more safely</i>	<i>Exiting bed more safely</i>
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Physical:

<i>Weakness</i>	<i>Pain related to Mobility_</i>	<i>Mobility r/l</i>
<i>Balance Deficit</i>	<i>Unable to support trunk in upright position</i>	<i>Unable to use side rails</i>

I HAVE READ THE RISKS OF BED RAILS AND I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A COPY OF A GUIDE TO BED SAFETY PAMPHLET. I UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUS RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH USING SIDE RAILS. HOWEVER, I AM MAKING AN INFORMED CONSENT DECISION FOR THE USE OF SIDE RAILS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

REASON: _____

Resident: _____ **Date:** _____

OR

I, being the legal surrogate decision maker for _____ who is unable to make an informed consent decision regarding bed rail use, have read the GUIDE TO BED SAFETY PAMPHLET I understand the risks associated with bed rail use and I understand the serious concerns with regards to using bed rails; however, I want to have the following bed rails(s) used and in place for my family member.

Both upper Left upper Right upper None

POA Signature _____ **Date** _____

Provider Signature _____ **Date** _____