**Bedside Rails**

* Before a resident can use a side rail on their bed, an assessment needs to be completed to ensure the resident is safe using the device and has a need for the device. Here is a sample [side rail evaluation form](https://adultfamilyhomecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SIDE-RAIL-EVALUATION.doc).
* Please also see the [side rail safety form](https://adultfamilyhomecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SideRailSafety.pdf) as well as the [bed rail safety informed consent form](https://adultfamilyhomecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BedRailSafetyandInformedConsentForm.pdf). These can be used to document that the resident and their family are aware of the risks and benefits of using the side rails.
* The last step is to document the use of the side rails in the negotiated care plan (document how the side rails will be used and any instructions for staff-i.e., does the resident use the side rails to reposition in bed, keep him/her from falling out of bed or for help to transfer out of the bed? Does the staff help with any task?).
* Please see the WAC below for your reference.

**WAC 388-76-10650**

**Medical devices.**

(1) The adult family home must not use a medical device with a known safety risk as a restraint or for staff convenience.

(2) Before a medical device with a known safety risk is used by a resident, the home must:

(a) Ensure an assessment has been completed that identifies the resident's need and ability to safely use the medical device;

(b) Provide the resident and his or her family or legal representative with information about the device's benefits and safety risks to enable them to make an informed decision about whether to use the device;

(c) Ensure the resident's negotiated care plan includes how the resident will use the medical device; and

(d) Ensure the medical device is properly installed.