

# SWP-SPH-ASSISTING A FALLING PATIENT FROM STANDING

Description of Task: Assisting a Falling Patient from Standing			
Position/Job: 1-2 Healthcare Workers (HCWs)		Department/Unit: All patient care areas	
<b>Potential Hazards</b>		<b>Personal Protective Equipment Required</b>	
	<i>Risk for Injury (check all that apply)</i>	<i>Specify Type, Manufacturer, Model</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological (puncture/spill/splash/exposure)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Protection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caught In/Under/Between Wall, Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eye Protection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical/Hazardous Substance/Medication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hearing Protection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact with Hot/Cold Object/Substance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Face Protection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact with Sharp Object (not biological)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Protection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foot Protection: Proper Footwear
<input type="checkbox"/>	Falling or moving equipment/material	<input type="checkbox"/>	Respirator/Fit Test:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moving machinery / parts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Body Protection:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MSI-Awkward / sustained postures	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hi Visibility Apparel:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MSI-Forceful exertions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
<input type="checkbox"/>	MSI-Repetitive motions	<b>Equipment and/or tools required to perform task</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	Transfer belt appropriately sized for the patient, Proper footwear for patient	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Surfaces/Objects causing slips, trip or falls		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Task requires more than 1 worker		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent, Aggressive or Reactive Behaviours	<b>For machine operation tasks complete the following</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Working Alone or in Isolation	Machine Description and Safety Features:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Working at Heights		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Infection Transmission		
Patient/Client/Resident Related Tasks - be knowledgeable of patient specific hazards (CARE Alert, Falls Risk, Patient Handling Assessment, Isolation Precautions, etc.)		Set-up and maintenance of this equipment is only to be performed by trained/authorized staff following the manufacturer's manual.	
<b>Training and Proficiency:</b>			
Staff who perform this task must be trained as indicated below in this safe work procedure prior to performing it. Training must be documented. This SWP must be available to staff.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Read Procedure and Sign		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Required Training: <i>Specify</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrated Competency		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watched Video	
<b>Responsibilities</b>			
<b>Manager/Supervisor or Designate:</b> Ensure all staff are trained and that duties are performed in accordance to training, established health and safety regulations, guidelines, policies and procedures (e.g. following safe work procedures).		<b>Staff performing task:</b> Perform task in accordance to training, established health and safety regulations, guidelines, policies and procedures (e.g. following safe work procedures). Follow process for reporting hazards, injuries, occurrences and patient safety events.	
Approved by	Original Effective Date	Revised Effective Date	Reviewed Date
Provincial Workplace Safety & Health Working Group	July 2019	July 2019	January 2022

## SWP-SPH-ASSISTING A FALLING PATIENT FROM STANDING

This safe work procedure was created by The Provincial Workplace Safety and Health MSIP Subcommittee and will be reviewed any time the task, equipment or materials change and at a minimum of every three years from the last revision date.

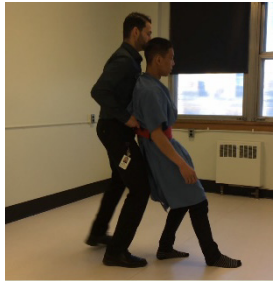
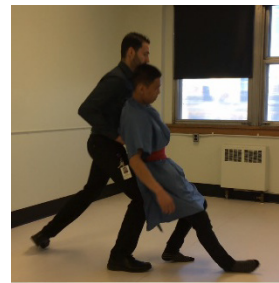
### Notes/Other Considerations:

- Patient should be properly assessed for ability and potential contraindications with using a transfer belt.
- Factors which can affect helping a falling patient:
  - Direction of the fall (towards or away from HCW)
  - Size of patient in relation to HCW
  - Distance between patient and HCW during fall
  - Obstructions within fall area.



**Note:** Falls happen quickly and unexpectedly, use all precautions to prevent the potential for a fall whenever possible.

**Note:** HCWs should never attempt to “catch” or hold up a falling patient. This may result in further injury to the HCW and/or patient.

### Steps to be taken to complete task safely

1	<p>HCW quickly moves behind patient if close enough to do so. HCW stands with wide base of support, one foot in front of the other. Front foot of HCW is placed between legs of patient. HCW grasps transfer belt if already around patient. If no transfer belt, attempt to hold patient on either side of their waist.</p>	
2	<p>HCW takes a step backwards with back leg and bends both knees, keeping patient close.</p> <p>If fall occurs with a two-person transfer or walking assist, HCW #2 assists in guiding the patient to the floor.</p>	

## SWP-SPH-ASSISTING A FALLING PATIENT FROM STANDING

3	<p>HCW allows patient to “slide” down the front leg of the HCW and guides patient to the floor. Protect the head of the patient whenever possible.</p>  
<b>Related Materials:</b>	
<b>References:</b>	