LIFTING POLICY

Patients who require assistance with transfers from a wheelchair to a commode chair or an examination table must comply with the following guidelines:

- If the patient is non-weight bearing and requires total assistance, either a family member or staff members from the facility where the patient is currently residing must accompany the patient and carry-out the lifting of the patient.
- The above requirement is for safety of the patient so that individuals familiar with the patients lifting requirements are present to assist with and supervise the movement on the patient.
- If the patient requires partial assistance with mobility, someone must be present to assist staff with the movement of the patient.
- When the patient is scheduled for procedures, the patient must be informed that they must bring any assistive devices necessary for ambulation. This would include gait belts, transfer boards, walkers, and canes.
- Patients exceeding a 300 lb weight limit will require special attention, as the commode chairs used for voiding during urodynamics has a 300 lb weight limit and the examination table used to CT Scan’s & X-rays have a 300 lb weight limit as well. Certainly if the patient is ambulatory, we will accommodate the patient to the best of our ability, but if they are not mobile we will be unable to test them.

These guidelines are developed to provide for the safety of patients as we would never want to injure a patient when attempting to move them. It is very important that individuals trained in appropriate body mechanics and transfer techniques be the ones to assist these patients. These guidelines also provide for the safety of our staff, as an injury acquired when attempting to move a patient can prove both painful and costly.

This policy was developed to provide for the utmost safety for patients and staff members.