

Point of Care Risk Assessment for Transfers

What is it?

A point of care risk 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 worker does the point of care risk assessment. This can be a care aide, a nurse aide, an orderly, a licensed practical nurse, or a registered nurse. The bottom line – if you’re moving a person, do a point of care risk assessment first!

How do I do it?

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

Environment	Care Plan	Self (Worker)	Person/Patient
Is it safe? Is this the appropriate height for my task? Is there a risk of the bed/chair moving while completing my task? Do I have space? Do I have what I need?	Have I checked the plan? Any changes to the plan? Do I understand the task?	Can I do the task safely? Am I focused? Am I rushing? Is my positioning correct?	Is he/she ready? Can he/she: Follow direction? Lean forward sitting? Lift his/her buttocks up off the bed/chair? Step or shuffle?

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 facility’s procedures to **report a temporary change in the person’s functional status** and/or **request a reassessment**.

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Environment

Is it safe?
Is this the appropriate height for my task?
Is there a risk of the bed/chair moving while completing my task?
Do I have space?
Do I have what I need?

Care Plan

Have I checked the plan?
Any changes to the plan?
Do I understand the task?

Assess the Risk

Self (Worker)

Can I do the task safely?
Am I focused?
Am I rushing?
Is my positioning correct?

Person/Patient

Is he/she ready?
Can he/she:
Follow direction?
Lean forward sitting?
Lift his/her buttocks up off the bed/chair?
Step or shuffle?