

PATIENT INFORMATION

Bed Rails, Safe Use of

Information for Patients, Relatives and Carers

It is the Trust's intention to keep people in their care safe. Whilst sometimes the use of bedrails can help, there are also risks attached to the use of bedrails. The risk between using bed rails and not using them has to be a balance for each person, using the skills and judgement of the health professional in discussion with the person/family/carer. A risk assessment will be carried out before the use of any bed rails

What are bed rails

Bed rails are a frame, that are attached/integral to the bed. Some bed rails may be covered in padding or a 'bumper'

They are used for:

- When people are being taken to another area on beds or hospital trolleys
- When recovering from anaesthetic, procedure or sedation
- To offer extra support when sitting up in a single bed

May be considered for:

- When a person's balance or safety in bed is affected by illness, condition or medicine
- At the person's request to give a feeling of security. They should still be able to move in bed, have the call bell in reach at all times to be able to ask for help when getting out of bed

Please note:

- Not everyone is suitable for bed rails
- Trying to get out of a bed with bed rails can cause greater injury; please ask for help before transferring from the bed
- Bedrails cannot/should not be used as a form of restraint
- It is important that the bed rails are kept in good condition and regularly checked for safety.
 If there are concerns at any time these should be reported to a member of staff/equipment store contact number on the bed
- The need for bed rails will be reviewed regularly. This may result in them no longer being needed and as a result, they will be kept in the down position on the bed. <u>Any change in</u> <u>use of the bedrails should only be as a result of a further assessment by healthcare staff</u>

If you have any concerns about this information please speak to a member of staff.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.