

ABBREVIATED

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SPHM
Safe Patient Handling & Mobility

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The Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Safe Patient Handling and Mobility: Clinical Considerations for Best Practice

- SPHM equipment should continue to be used with the early and progressive mobility of COVID-19 patients.
- Facilities should reach out to their vendors to reiterate the cleaning of SPHM equipment in order to meet with COVID-19 guidelines if single patient use equipment is not being used.
- The biggest SPHM challenge for COVID-19 patients is repositioning a patient into the prone position to help with their breathing.
- Patient proning can be completed with a variety of SPHM tools and techniques such as (1) an air-assist device, (2) a repositioning sling, or (3) a friction-reducing device (ie, slide sheet).

SPHM, Infection Prevention and Control, and COVID-19

- The purpose of this article is to review what we currently know about infection control practices and mitigating the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease COVID-19 in healthcare environments, as it relates to SPHM equipment and slings.
- Provides detailed information on the cleaning and disinfecting of SPHM equipment to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Providing simple pictorial and highly visible job aids that show employees how to clean and inspect SPHM equipment, together with rounding on units and in-person coaching (eg, using SPHM champions) may increase compliance with infection prevention processes.
- Providing adequate supply of cleaning supplies and PPE that are easily accessible will also facilitate compliance.

Focus on COVID-19



Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Plan for the COVID-19 Units at a Level 1 Trauma Center in Florida

- Many staff are working alone in ICU rooms to limit exposure and preserve PPE which increases their risk of musculoskeletal injury.
- The Injury Protection Team (formerly the lift team) provide support to the staff in 4 ways; in advising and assisting with the complex COVID-19 patients, in developing education videos for the staff on proning patients, cleaning and disinfecting equipment and making sure the equipment is available to staff.
- All patients are placed on an air-assisted device which is left deflated unless required for transfer. It is attached to a ceiling lift to assist with repositioning to prone
- There are 3 video links in the article to demonstrate proning.

Moving and Handling Solutions in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the UK: Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on a Caregiver's Ability to Carry out Their Role in Home Care

- Some family members have refused to let healthcare workers into their loved ones homes for fear of being infected with the COVID-19 virus.
- Many new homecare staff have been employed and require training on the SPHM equipment.
- An online approach to SPHM education and competency assessment is outlined for family members and new healthcare workers.

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International Perspective:

- **Managing COVID-19 and Safe Patient Handling and Mobility in the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS)**
 - a) No national guidelines for the NHS as a whole to deal with COVID-19
- **The Impact of COVID-19 on Moving & Handling (M&H) in New Zealand**
 - a) Guidelines on how to get back to training staff on SPHM
- **COVID-19 and Safe Patient Handling and Mobility in the Netherlands**
 - a) Recognize need for the psychological care of the resident and the importance of physical touch. Introduces the "hug curtain" a great idea for the USA in skilled and assisted living facilities