

Declining of Moving and Handling Equipment

Information and advice for patients

It has been identified that you need equipment in your home for healthcare professionals to be able to deliver care to you safely. A risk assessment has been carried out by health care professionals to ensure you are well cared for in a safe manner and that healthcare professionals are kept safe as well.

It is the policy of Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust that all staff involved in moving and handling activities must not take risks, which could place patients or themselves at risk of injury.

There is a significant amount of legislation and guidance related to moving and handling in place to protect patients and employees. We have a responsibility to work within this guidance at all times. The Trust aims to eliminate, or at least minimise, moving and handling tasks wherever possible.

The Trust has an obligation to provide specialist equipment to support safe moving and handling activities of a patient. If you decline the equipment identified, such as an electric profiling bed, injuries to staff are likely to happen as the bed/sofa/chair you own may not be height adjustable. Injuries usually occur at high/low levels, therefore, to ensure the Trust reduce the risk of injury to employees as far as reasonably practicable the identified equipment is required for your care.

Staff will not be permitted to carry out any hazardous moving and handling activities. Where required, handling aids and equipment must be used as part of your care. It has been identified that your care would be safer if specialist equipment such as a profiling bed was provided by the NHS Trust.

Please be aware that although we would not want to do this, we may decline to deliver care when the appropriate equipment is not in place.

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact SWB Library Services on ext 3587 or email swbh.library@nhs.net.



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