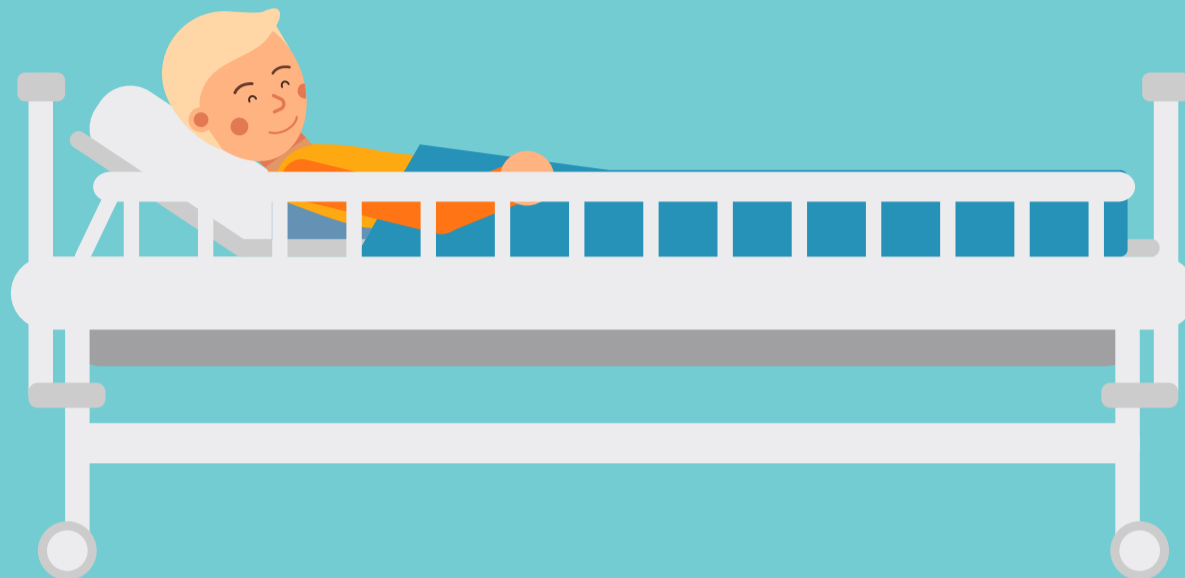


Bed Safety Rails

To use or not to use, that is the question?



Ongoing Risk Assessment

Ensure one is in place and is updated regularly especially if resident has fallen or there are any changes to their condition.



Think Alternatives or Additions

There are other interventions including:

- Low bed
- Bed rail bumpers
- Crash mats
- Alarm systems
- Bed rail height extenders



Things to consider when assessing the use of bed rails

1. Entrapment risk
2. BMI - body size/shape
3. Dementia/delirium
4. Involuntary movements
5. Consider risk of person climbing over
6. Mattress type/height



Equipment Checks

Carry out regular checks of the bed rails to ensure they are in working order including:

- Signs of wear and tear
- The rail is clean
- The bed rail moves up and down appropriately
- The rail doesn't wobble when in place
- There are no obvious gaps between bed/mattress



Restraint

Bed safety rails should not be used to stop a resident leaving their bed. They are designed to be used to prevent rolling or falling out of bed.



Communicate

If using bed safety rails there should be a discussion with the resident/family/representative and consent granted.



Help!

Should you have any concerns about the use of bed safety rails please escalate to a senior member of staff within the care home. If further assistance is required please contact the appropriate team within your Health and Social Care Partnership.