

This information is provided for our Customers to ensure that they understand more about the products we have provided - both how they benefit the patient and how they can be safely used. If you have any questions about why this product was recommended for you or questions about a therapy regimen, please contact your physician or therapist.

If you have any questions or concerns about the product provided to you, please contact our office.

HOSPITAL BEDS

ABOUT HOSPITAL BEDS

Hospital beds in the home serve two major purposes:

- They permit body positioning that is not feasible in a regular home bed.
- They permit the attachment of other pieces of equipment that cannot be used on a regular home bed.

Hospital beds may provide several other advantages such as: making it easier and safer for the patient to get in and out of the bed; and to reach a standing position for ambulation with crutches, walker or cane making transfers to and from wheelchairs or bed side commode's easier and safer and making care giving much easier by placing the bed at a more convenient height for providing assistance with position changes, turning, bathing, eating and performing other bedside care.

Both patient and caregivers should be familiar with all of the basic operations of the bed in order to enjoy maximum benefits from its use. They should also be alert to any unusual noises during operation of the bed, or any changes, such as cranks becoming stiff or more difficult to turn, that might indicate a mechanical problem. Problems of this nature should be reported to our office immediately.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- On the manual multi-height models, when facing the foot of the bed, the crank on the left raises and lowers the head section of the spring. The crank on the right raises and lowers the foot section of the spring. The center crank raises and lowers the height of the bed. Turning any of these three cranks clockwise raises the bed and turning any crank counter-clockwise lowers it.
- On semi-electric models, the hand controller has four buttons. One pair of buttons operates the head spring section, and the other pair operates the foot spring section. In each pair, one button raises, and the other one lowers. The function of each button is indicated on the hand controller. The semi-electric models have a manual crank system to raise and lower bed height. This bed height adjustment operates exactly the same as it does on the manual multi-height bed described above.
- On the full-electric models, the control pendant has six buttons. Four of the buttons are the same as those described above for the semi-electric models. The two additional buttons operate the bed height. One button raises the bed; the other lowers the bed. The function of each button is indicated on the hand controller. On both electric models, an emergency crank is furnished. This crank can be inserted into the appropriate sockets at the foot of the bed to allow manual adjustment of all bed functions. This provides emergency back-up operation in the event of power failure or the failure of one of the motors.

USING YOUR HOSPITAL BED

For all manual and electric models, before elevating the head section, it is always wise to elevate the foot of the bed first, by raising the foot section slightly. This prevents the patient from sliding down in the bed. By raising the foot of the bed the knees flex providing a more comfortable position for most individuals.

Customers who order a Hospital Bed may also need and qualify other supplies and products which help with the activities of daily living. An area where safety and ease of use is important is the bathroom. We can provide an array of solutions, from Wheeled Commode/Shower Chairs to specialized hand-held shower heads that allow for greater functionality and independence.

Other supplies and products which you may consider to help with the activities of daily living include:

Wheelchair or Walker	Full or half-length Bed Rails	Protective Bed Pads
Skin protection cushions	Egg Crate Support Surfaces	Ostomy or Urological supplies
Fitted Sheet Sets	Patient Lifts & Ramp Systems	Stair Lifts

For more information about access to these products, please talk to our Representative.

HOSPITAL BEDS

USING YOUR HOSPITAL BED (continued)

By raising or lowering the height of the bed, getting in or out of bed can be made much easier and safer. If the patient is using an ambulation aid, such as a walker or cane, the bed height can be increased to make reaching a stable standing position much safer and easier. This allows the caregiver to concentrate his/her efforts on assisting the patient rather than with struggling to lift the individual up to a standing position.

For transfers to and from a wheelchair or a bedside commode, the bed height can be set slightly higher for transfers out of the bed, and slightly lower for transfers back into bed. This makes transfers easier by using the assistance of gravity. (Making transfers "downhill").

It is *extremely important* that the brakes be applied on the two locking casters any time the patient is entering or leaving the bed, to prevent the bed from rolling away and causing a fall. Even with these locks applied, patients who are unstable on their feet should not attempt to enter or exit the bed without assistance. The brakes are not absolutely failsafe. Even though the wheels may not turn, the casters may slide on the floor, allowing the bed to shift, causing an accident. An attendant or caregiver should be present to assist the patient and to help stabilize the bed.

In addition to being helpful with transfers, the bed height can be raised to reduce bending or stooping by the caregiver when assisting the patient with turning or changing position in bed. This is also helpful during bathing, feeding and other bedside care. This feature is a great "back saver" for the caregiver.

When assisting a patient to turn in bed, the caregiver should first lock the caster brakes and then stand on the side of the bed toward which the individual will be turning. Side rails should be in the up and locked position and the bed set at a height that permits the caregiver to reach over the rails and to roll the patient toward them. Never assist by rolling the patient toward the opposite side of the bed.

Please keep this information available for reference. If questions arise concerning the use or operation of the hospital bed, please call our office.

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BED SIDE RAILS

Designed to fit a traditional or hospital style bed in your home, Bed Side Rails can be added for protection or as a handy help up.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The bed side rails are lowered by pulling out on the pull buttons or plungers. Care should be exercised not to catch the patient's hands or feet in the rails as they are lowered. It is wise to hold the rail with one hand, while releasing the pull button with the other. This way it can be lowered slowly and in a controlled manner.

- To raise the rail, lift up in the center until the plungers snap into the holes in the rail.
- Visually check to confirm that the plungers are securely seated.

On the universal telescoping rails, the head end can be raised independently of the foot end to provide a half rail effect if desired.

When assisting a patient to turn on to his/her side, the rails should be in the up and locked position. The caregiver should stand on the side toward which the patient is to be turned—then reach over the rail and pull to provide the needed assistance for the patient. Providing this assistance can be made much easier by first adjusting the bed to a convenient height.

To make the bed:

1. Lower the rail on one side.
2. Drop the linen between the rails and the mattress.
3. Tuck the linen and blankets.
4. Raise the rail to the up position.
5. Follow the same procedure on the opposite side.

Periodically lubricate the sliding and telescoping parts of the rails with silicone spray to keep them operating easily and smoothly. Only silicone spray should be used for this lubrication procedure. Similar petroleum-based sprays such as WD-40 will soil the bed linens and can pose a fire hazard for the person on oxygen.

IMPORTANT

- A side rail is a safety device to prevent the patient from rolling out of bed. It should not be used as a restraint.
- A side rail may, however, unintentionally restrain a patient. Caregivers must be sensitive to the patient's personal needs and safety at all times when using side rails.
- There will be a gap between the side rail and the mattress when the head spring is elevated so it is important that the arms, hands and fingers do not fall between this gap. Usually a rolled towel or a pillow works well to fill the gap and protect the patient.

Customers who order a Bed Side Rail may also need and qualify other supplies and products which help with the activities of daily living.

These may include:	Hand-Held Shower Chair Lift Bedside Commode	Electric Bath Lift Stair Lift Rolling Walker	Wall or Tub Grab bars Raised Toilet Seat w/Rails Wheelchair or Scooter
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