Appendix A- VHA Safe Patient Handling and Movement Algorithms

The Assessment Criteria and Care Plan for Safe Patient Handling and Movement, the algorithms, and the clinical tools that follow are taken directly from the Web site of the Department of Veterans Affairs: www.visn8.med.va.gov/visn8/patientsafetycenter/safePtHandling/default.asp

Algorithm 1: Transfer to and From: Bed to Chair, Chair to Toilet, Chair to Chair, or Car to Chair
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- For seated transfer aid, must have chair with arms that recess or are removable.
- For full body sling lift, select a lift that was specifically designed to access a patient from the car (if the car is the starting or ending destination).
- If patient has partial weight-bearing capacity, transfer toward stronger side.
- Toileting slings are available for toileting.
- Mesh slings are available for bathing.
- During any patient-transferring task, if any caregiver is required to lift more than 35 lbs of a patient’s weight, then the patient should be considered to be fully dependent and assistive devices should be used for the transfer. (Waters, T. [2007]. When is it safe to manually lift a patient? American Journal of Nursing, 107(8), 53-59.)