

## The Village Residence Restraint Risk Balance

### 2. Detailed risk balance tool

*See comment under Alternative A about the advantages and disadvantages of this type of tool*

THE RISK OF NOT USING BEDRAILS	THE RISK OF USING BEDRAILS
<p><b>How likely is it that the patient will fall out of bed?</b>            Patients may be more likely to slip, roll, slide or fall out of bed if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have fallen from bed before;</li> <li>• have been assessed as having a high risk of falling;</li> <li>• are very overweight;</li> <li>• are semi-conscious;</li> <li>• have a visual impairment;</li> <li>• have a partial paralysis;</li> <li>• have seizures or spasms;</li> <li>• are sedated, drowsy from strong painkillers or are recovering from an anaesthetic;</li> <li>• are delirious or confused;</li> <li>• affected by alcohol or street drugs;</li> <li>• are on a pressure-relieving mattresses which 'gives' at the sides;</li> <li>• use bedrails at home;</li> <li>• have self-operated profiling beds.</li> </ul> <p><b>How likely is it that the patient could be injured in a fall from bed?</b>            Injury from falls from bed may be more likely, and more serious for some patients than others, for example, if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have osteoporosis;</li> <li>• are on anti-coagulants;</li> <li>• are older;</li> <li>• have fragile skin;</li> <li>• have a vascular disease;</li> <li>• are critically ill;</li> <li>• have long term health problems;</li> <li>• are malnourished.</li> </ul> <p><b>Will not using bedrails cause the patient anxiety?</b>            Some patients may be afraid of falling out of bed even though their actual risk is low.</p>	<p><b>Would bedrails stop the patient from being independent?</b>            Bedrails can be a barrier to independence for patients who otherwise could leave their bed safely without help</p> <p><b>Is the patient likely to climb over their bedrails?</b>            An injury's severity can be increased if the patient climbs over a bedrail and falls from a greater height. It is patients who are significantly confused and have enough strength and mobility to clamber over bedrails that are most vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Could the patient injure themselves on their bedrails?</b>            Bedrails can cause injury if the patient knocks themselves on them or traps their legs or arms between them. The most vulnerable patients are those:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with uncontrolled limb movements;</li> <li>• who are restless and significantly confused;</li> <li>• with fragile skin.</li> </ul> <p>Bedrails, even when correctly fitted, carry a very rare risk of postural asphyxiation. Patients who are very confused, frail and restless are most likely to be at risk.</p> <p><b>Will using bedrails cause the patient distress?</b>            Bedrails may distress some patients who feel trapped by them.</p>
<b>BEDRAIL USE IS RECOMMENDED IF THE RISKS ABOVE ARE GREATER THAN THE RISKS ON THE RIGHT</b>	<b>BEDRAIL USE IS NOT RECOMMENDED IF THE RISKS ABOVE ARE GREATER THAN THE RISKS ON THE LEFT</b>