Choosing the correct Assistive Device

“Assess patient and environment”

Include:

• Ability of the patient to provide assistance
• Ability of the patient to hold sitting balance
• Ability of patient to bear weight
• Upper extremity strength of patient
• Ability of the patient to cooperate and follow instructions
• Patient height and weight
• Specific circumstances likely to affect transfer or reposition tasks, such as abdominal wounds, contractures, presence of tubes, cords, clutter, battery charge, trained staff available to assist, etc.
• Specific health care provider orders
• Physical therapy recommendations
Proper Body Mechanic

- Maintain a wide stable base.
- Maintain a straight back.
- Keep the patient as close to your body as possible.
- Keep your shoulders, spine and hips, in a line and do not extend your arms to the side.
- Move the patient using your weight from one foot to the other.
- When providing care or repositioning patients in bed, put the bed at hip to waist level of the shortest person assisting.
- With any manual lifting, ensure that team members know their roles, objective is clearly communicated to all team members and patient, and that a designated team member is cueing the lift.
- Allow the patient to safely assist with their own movement, as possible.
• If lift over 35lbs. of force, use assistive device and/or lift team.