



This standard of practice is to support the PSW in providing safe, respectful, and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the PSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Transfers - Moving of a person(s) from one place or setting to another when mobility has been compromised.

If the person(s) require assistance with transfers, rising from a sitting position or is unable to perform this action at all, then the person(s) would require the Personal Support Workers assistance.

The PSW may assist the person(s) with transfers when the person(s) has sufficient balance and strength to assist the PSW with the transfer. Adaptive equipment may be used if the person(s) is fully aware and trained in the use of the equipment and can direct the transfer. Transfers may include chair to chair, bed to chair, chair to commode or toilet, chair to bed. Always check the plan of care for directions.

If the PSW is expected to care for a person(s) post hip fracture, a RHP must train the PSW in proper positioning and “Log Rolling” of the client.

A Hoyer Lift or Transfer-Board may be used in the transfer by a PSW. As there are numerous different manufacturers and models of lifts, it is important to the PSW has reviewed the instructions for this particular device and has also checked with the company or facility’s policy on the use of equipment where applicable. If the PSW is unsure of the proper and safe use of the device, then the PSW should ask for direction from either the facility or from the appropriate supervisor.

PSW – Personal Support Worker

RN/RPN – Registered Nurse/ Registered Practical Nurse

RHPA – Regulated Health Professions Act

Resources - Sheila A. Sorrentino, PhD, RN, Leighann Remmert, MS, RN and Mary J. Wilk, RN, GNC(C), BA, BScN, MN, Mosby's Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 3rd Edition