



Hospital Beds And Other Equipment In The Home

Patient Safety Is A Major Concern

The keys to safe and sensible home care include:

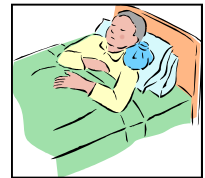
- ◆ Safety improvements in and around the home.
- ◆ Emergency planning. It's always important, but even more so when a patient is at home.
- ◆ Patience and understanding. Home care means change, and change means taking time to adjust.

A safer home can help give you peace of mind.

Today, patients often receive care at home. Many people find home care a truly positive experience. Home care can be both challenging and rewarding. The benefits of home care can include:

- ◆ Emotional satisfaction
- ◆ Quicker recovery
- ◆ Financial savings

Family members, friends and patients play a crucial role in successful home care!



In The Bedroom:



- Consider buying or renting a hospital-style bed with siderails.
- Obtain an overbed trapeze so the patient can lift himself or herself.
- Have a portable toilet beside the bed.

On Stairs: You may need to:

- Build Ramps.
- Install new railings.
- Secure old railings.
- Repair or replace steps.



Help Prevent Pressure Sores

Bedridden patients can benefit from:

- Frequent turning
- Skin lotions and moisturizers
- Pressure-reducing pads and mattresses
- Proper nutrition and fluid intake

Ask a health-care provider for details on preventing pressure sores at home.



Throughout The Home:

- Maintain clean, bright surroundings.
- Make sure furniture is comfortable and sturdy.
- Lower water heater temperature to 120 degrees to avoid burns.



Guard Against Slips, Trips and Falls

- Clear walking areas. Make sure all cords are out of the way.
- Keep hallways and high-traffic areas free of clutter, such as books, clothes, toys and boxes. Keep stairways well lit. Make sure both top and bottom light switches work. Replace burned-out bulbs immediately.
- Secure area rugs. Use tacks, rubber pads or carpet tape to keep area rugs in place. Remove area rugs in the bathroom and kitchen.
- Repair any holes in carpeting. Be sure to fix any flooring that's warped or buckled.
- Install nonskid treads on stairs. Always use railings. In the bathroom, put nonslip strips in the shower and tub.
- Use night lights. Put them in bedrooms, bathrooms, hallways, etc.