

Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<p><u>Title:</u> Safe Patient Handling</p> <p><u>Number:</u> DT-12</p> <p><u>Page Number:</u> 1 of 2</p>	<p>Original Approval: 4/17</p> <p>Reviewed/ revised: 5/24</p>
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Statement/ Purpose:

To ensure a safe patient handling environment and eliminate or minimize employee and patient injuries related to patient handling and movement activities.

Authority:

Public Health Law, Article 29D, Title 1-A, Section 2997, g-i

Application:

All Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center Registered Nurses

Terminology:

Responsible Party:

Public Health Director

Cross-Reference:

Accident or Incident Reporting

Procedure:

1. The SCDPH Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center clientele consists primarily of independently ambulatory individuals and individuals accompanied by a caregiver that assists with movement activities. SCDPH does not maintain in-house engineering controls, lifting and transfer aids, or assistive devices for staff use to perform the acts of lifting, transferring, or repositioning health care patients and residents. However, SCDPH will make a good faith attempt to accommodate patient handling needs based on an assessment of the patient's physical and mental condition and the availability of safe patient handling equipment.
2. Employees may refuse to perform or be involved in patient handling or movement activities that the employee reasonably believes will expose a patient or the health care facility employee to an unacceptable risk of injury. Employees refusing to perform or be involved in patient handling or movement shall notify their supervisor as soon as possible.
3. Employees shall not be the subject of disciplinary action by SCDPH for the refusal to perform or be involved in the patient handling or movement that the employee reasonably believes will expose a patient or the health care facility employee to an unacceptable risk of injury.

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4. Employees with actual or potential injuries related to patient handling and movement activities shall reference the SCDPH Accident/Incident Reporting Policy for guidance. All accidents and injuries related to patient handling and movement shall be investigated consistent with the Accident/Incident Reporting Policy.
5. Individuals requiring special handling and movement accommodations are encouraged to notify SCDPH in advance when possible and to independently arrange to be accompanied by a caregiver to assist with special handling and movement activities.