



Framework for safer person handling practice

1. Justification for moving the person (clinical reasoning).
2. Completion of a risk assessment (risks associated with the Task, the Individual handler(s), the Load (person), the Environment (TILE).
3. Knowledge of relevant legislation and RCOT Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
4. Handlers refer to relevant documentation such as previous risk/handling assessments, client records in accordance with local guidance.
5. Consideration given to reducing unnecessary movement, stooping and task repetition.
6. Knowledge of good posture (postural management - see below).
7. Identify optimum start position from which the person is most likely to succeed in completing the task when given instruction or moved by the handlers.
8. Hierarchy of approach:
 - * Consider and use normal movement patterns for the person when completing the task.
 - * Where possible, teach the person to do the manoeuvre unaided: where possible, encourage the person to be able to complete the task themselves.
 - * If the person is unable, identify and provide equipment (see Equipment briefing below) that would mean the person could then complete the task themselves.
 - * If the person is still unable, one or more handlers should give the minimum assistance possible, with or without handling equipment, to complete the task safely.
9. Preparation:
 - * Preparation of the person - assessment of physical and cognitive abilities that a person needs to have in order to complete a manoeuvre or task.
 - * Preparation of handling equipment - the equipment must meet the requirements of legislation, be safe, and clean. The equipment is assessed as suitable for the task, the handler(s), the person, and the environment.
 - * Handlers are trained in the assessment and use of the equipment in line with manufacturers' instructions. Handlers can demonstrate competence with the equipment within appropriate environments and with relevant client groups.
 - * Handlers understand the safe system of work in place, including risks involved in performing the task where equipment is used, and know when not to proceed.
 - * Preparation for the manoeuvre - to complete the task, the manoeuvre has the desired outcome; encourages the person to do as much for themselves as possible; includes clear and appropriate communication between the handler(s) and person throughout; comprises appropriate holds that offer the required support without causing physical, psychological or emotional discomfort or harm, e.g. musculoskeletal pain, discomfort or injury, stress or emotional discomfort, or harmful effects on tissue viability such as shearing, bruising, et cetera; is controlled and smooth, not jerky or rushed.
10. On completion the person is in a comfortable, safe position.

Adapted with kind permission from Backcare

[Backcare \(2011\) The Guide to The Handling of People: a systems approach. Teddington: Backcare.](#)