

## Maintaining Client Safety

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### OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE

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An understanding of safety as it relates to community and self is necessary for the delivery of quality health care. Health care workers will use preventive measures to minimize injury and illness by following industry safety policies. The student is expected to maintain personal and client safety.

TEKS 121.4 10B

TAKS ELA 1, 4

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### KEY POINTS

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- I. Injury due to falls is a major problem in health care. Health care providers must anticipate potential falls and take steps to avoid injuries.
- II. Falls are placed into two main categories:
  - A. Falls on the same level caused by caused by tripping, bumping, slipping
  - B. Falls on different levels due to misjudging a distance overreaching, inadequate ambulation equipment, inadequate training or instructions
- III. To reduce the risk of falls:
  - A. Provide handrails throughout the facility
  - B. Keep floors clean and uncluttered
  - C. Keep floors dry, free from puddles. Block newly mopped areas from pedestrian traffic.
  - D. Remove equipment not being used by clients
  - E. Keep passageways clear of electrical wiring and cables
  - F. Rearrange furniture to make wider, more open passageways for clients
  - G. Remove debris from floor
  - H. Provide gait belts for patients
- IV. Health care providers must be prepared to break the fall of the client while maintaining personal safety.

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## ACTIVITIES

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- I. Demonstrate how to use a gait belt to safely assist a client during ambulation.
- II. Demonstrate the ability to safely assist a client into a wheel chair.
- III. Interview a physical therapist or licensed professional health care provider about safety policies and procedures used in health care.

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## MATERIALS NEEDED

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Gait belts  
Wheel chair

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## ASSESSMENT

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Demonstration of correct procedures for ambulating a client wearing a gait belt.

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

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For reinforcement, students will describe the procedure for ambulating a client wearing a gait belt.

For enrichment, students will research the costs of a fall that results in a fracture in terms of loss of time from work, hospitalization and physician rehabilitation fees.

For enrichment, students will conduct a study to determine whether the school building is designed for the safety and comfort of students, teachers, staff, parents, and/or community members who are restricted to wheelchairs.

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## REFLECTIONS

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