

CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL

Physical Therapy Services

PT Equipment Procedure #26

Re: Velcro Seat Belts/Standard Buckle Type Seat Belt for Wheelchairs

Date: March 20, 2000

Revised: October 19, 2008

Description: Seat belts are webbed belts that are attached to the wheelchair and are secured with either Velcro or a buckle. They are used to:

1. Provide protection for patient to prevent falling out of chair when wheelchair hits uneven surfaces.
2. Provide protection for patient to prevent falling out of the wheelchair when he/she leans forward or sideways and when he/she falls asleep in wheelchair.
3. Allow freedom of movement as Velcro type and standard buckle type can be easily removed by patient.

Indications: As with any moving vehicle, each wheelchair should have an appropriate seat belt to prevent accidental slipping, falling, or bouncing out of wheelchair.

Procedure:

1. Once patient is sitting in wheelchair, secure seat belt over lap in comfortable position for client.
2. Seat belt should be anchored in lowest position accessible on the back of wheelchair.
3. Patient should be encouraged to maintain a 90-degree hip angle when sitting.
4. Instruct patient and unit staff in how to remove the seat belt.
5. The seat belt should be cleaned as per the hospital wheelchair cleaning policy.