

# Mobility & Bathroom Safety — Patient Resource Guide

Care instructions, equipment basics, and troubleshooting for wheelchairs, walkers, lifts, and bathroom safety equipment.

## Care Instructions

### Daily / Each Use

- Check wheelchair or rollator brakes engage fully before each transfer.
- Inspect tires/casters for debris or wear; wipe down the frame if used outdoors.
- Check that grab bars, shower chairs, and commodes are dry and free of soap residue.

### Weekly

- Tighten any loose bolts or fittings on wheelchairs, walkers, and transport chairs.
- Clean and disinfect bathroom safety equipment with a mild, non-abrasive cleaner.

### Periodic

- Check battery-powered lift chairs or scooters per manufacturer schedule; don't leave batteries fully discharged for long periods.
- Inspect slings on patient lifts for fraying or wear before every use — replace immediately if any tear is visible.

## Equipment & Usage Basics

- **Sizing & fit:** Equipment must be set to the correct height for the user — too low or too high increases fall risk. Your supplier can adjust this at delivery.
- **Brake/lock engagement:** Always confirm brakes are locked before any transfer in or out of a wheelchair, transport chair, or shower chair.
- **Weight limits:** Every mobility device has a maximum weight capacity listed in its manual — never exceed it.
- **Lift equipment:** Sling attachment points and lift mechanism operation should be demonstrated by your care team before independent use.

## Troubleshooting

| Issue                       | What to check                                      | When to call us                                       |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Brake won't engage          | Brake cable for wear, debris on wheel              | If brake still won't hold — stop using until repaired |
| Wobbling or uneven movement | Tighten visible bolts, check tire/caster condition | If wobble continues after tightening                  |

| Issue                             | What to check                               | When to call us                                        |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Lift chair/scooter won't power on | Battery charge, power connections           | If it won't charge or power on after checks            |
| Shower chair/commode unstable     | All legs/feet contact, non-slip tips intact | If instability continues — discontinue use immediately |
| Sling or strap fraying            | Stop use immediately, do not attempt repair | Call us right away for a replacement before next use   |

**Safety reminder:** Never use mobility or transfer equipment that feels unstable, even slightly — falls are the leading cause of injury in home care patients. If something doesn't feel right, stop and call us before the next use rather than after an incident.

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For any equipment issue you can't resolve, or any symptom that concerns you, our Respiratory and Clinical team is available 24/7 at (718) 854-5501. Don't wait for a problem to get worse — call us first.