



Posey Beds in Hospitals

This behavioral restraint device is used in hospitals to prevent patients from exiting a hospital bed unassisted. These beds are being used more with adults with I/DD and can be harmful. DDS issues this bulletin to inform you about their use and to offer suggestions about what to consider if a hospital is using a Posey Bed with a consumer.

What is a Posey Bed?

A Posey Bed is a tent-like enclosure entirely covering a hospital bed. Someone on the outside of the bed must unzip one of the tent flaps before the individual can get out of the bed.

Hospitals are using Posey Beds for some individuals served by regional center. Because the bed is a restraint, its use must be prescribed by a physician or other licensed practitioner authorized by the hospital to order restraint.



Posey Bed Uses

According to the user's manual, a Posey Bed is recommended to prevent patients at risk of serious injury from falling when exiting a bed unassisted, including individuals with:

- Severe osteoporosis, severe risk of fractures, or musculoskeletal problems;
- Use of anticoagulants;
- Insufficient muscle, fat, or tissue to absorb the impact of a fall;
- History of severe trauma in a prior fall;
- Conditions that cause uncontrollable movement; or
- Altered awareness or positional sense.

Overview Video from Highgate Healthcare*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG4oH1z2GiQ>

Posey Bed 8070 Model User Manual*:

https://www.4mdmedical.com/media/attachment/file/p/o/posey-bed-8070_user-manual.pdf

*This information does not imply any endorsement.



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Special Considerations for Regional Centers Regarding Posey Beds



Talk with the facility staff about whether the bed is to prevent physical injury for a patient at imminent risk or is being used as a substitute for staff supervision.



Note any changes in mental status, mood, aggression, or self-destructive behavior following placement in a Posey Bed.

Work with the facility to engage outside staffing agencies to provide supervision and support (i.e. respite care) or bring in behavioral resources to assist the facility.



Regularly visit and assess the individual's level of functioning, independence, changes in motor skills, and general functioning.



Explore less restrictive alternatives (i.e. one-to-one supervision, teaching patients to use call button, teaching staff the individual's signals, pressure pads).



Notify regional center leadership or service coordinator supervisor when a Posey Bed is used and monitor prolonged use of the Posey Bed.

Posey Bed Use Can Cause:

- Significant change in mental status, including depression;
- Sudden mood changes which lead to a change in medical conditions;
- An increase in aggression or self-destructive behaviors; and
- Deterioration in level of functioning or independence.

Posey Bed is not to be used for individuals:

- Able to safely exit the bed without help; or
- With uncontrolled muscle movements who are able to stay in a bed with a side railing.

The Posey Bed should not be used to restrict a individual:

- With violent or self-destructive behaviors;
- With an excessive Pica eating disorder; or
- Who are, or may become, claustrophobic.

Posey Beds should not be used for staff convenience or as a substitute for close supervision.



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