



Posey Beds in Hospitals

Posey beds are used in hospitals to prevent patients from exiting a hospital bed unassisted. These beds are used more with adults than with children. 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.

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 an individual can exit the bed.

Hospitals may use Posey Beds for some individuals served by regional centers. Their use must be prescribed by a physician or other licensed practitioner authorized by the hospital.



Posey Bed Uses

According to the user's manual, a Posey Bed may be used 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.



Wellness and Safety Bulletins are produced by the Department of Developmental Services to alert regional centers, service providers, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities of specific risks identified within our communities. Please provide feedback on this bulletin and what we can do better through this survey: [Bulletin Survey](#)

Special Considerations for Regional Centers Regarding Posey Beds



Talk with staff about whether the bed is to prevent physical injury for a patient at imminent risk.



Monitor any changes in mental status, mood, aggression, or self-destructive behavior following use of 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.



Continue to assess the individual's level of functioning, changes in motor skills, and general functioning.



Explore less restrictive alternatives such as one-to-one supervision, teaching patients to use call button, teaching staff the individual's signals, or pressure pads.



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

A 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.

A Posey Bed should not be used for individuals:

- With violent or self-destructive behaviors;
- With an excessive Pica eating disorder;
- Who are, or may become, claustrophobic; or
- Who weigh more than 300 pounds or less than 46 pounds, or are shorter than 46 inches.



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