

Safe Work Procedure (SWP)

Name of Task: SCH Supervise Walking w Aid

Description of Task: Provide client with verbal cues while walking with mobility aid.

Position/Job: HSW, HCA, ISW, RA, nurse

Department/Unit: WRHA Home Care

Equipment and/or Tools Required:

Appropriate footwear for client
May be used: mobility aid (walker, cane or crutches)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Required:

Appropriate footwear and clothing for staff

Potential Hazards: Forceful movements, awkward/sustained positions, forceful movements, infection transmission, violent and/or aggressive behavior

Signs and symptoms of a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) can include pain, burning, swelling, stiffness, numbness/tingling, and/or loss of movement or strength in a body part. Report these to your supervisor.

Considerations:

- Client must be assessed for ability. Do not proceed with transfer and contact supervisor if there are changes in client's ability.
- Client must be able to:
 - Follow directions and be cooperative
 - Reliably weight bear through legs
 - Reliably take steps
 - Have adequate walking tolerance

Steps to be taken to complete task safely:

1	<p>Client stands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If client is sitting on wheelchair or bed, ask client to lean forward and push up with arms and legs to standing position. • Place mobility aid close to client as appropriate (e.g., walker in front of client, cane on strong/unaffected side of client). • Ask client to pause if dizzy or not balanced.
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2	<p>Client walks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand behind and to the side of the client in a wide base of support with one foot in front of the other, hips and knees slightly bent and back straight. • Take small steps with client. • If needed, cue client to bring walker closer to body and offer resting breaks. <p>Note: Do not lift or hold the client up if unable to regain balance and client is falling.</p>
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Responsibilities

Managers/Supervisors or Designate: Ensure all duties are performed in accordance to training, established health and safety regulations/guidelines, policies and procedures (e.g. following safe work procedures)

Staff performing task: Perform task in accordance to training, established health and safety regulations/guidelines, policies and procedures (e.g. following safe work procedures). Notify Manager/Supervisor or designates of all occurrences/incidents, injuries, illnesses or safety and health concerns which are likely to harm themselves, co-workers, or any others who enter the premises.

Completion and Review

This safe work procedure will be reviewed any time the task, equipment or materials change and at a minimum of every three years from the last revision date

Approved by: Pending approval by PWHSWG and PHRLC

Created by: Home Care Safe Client Handling Committee

Last Revision Date: February 2019

