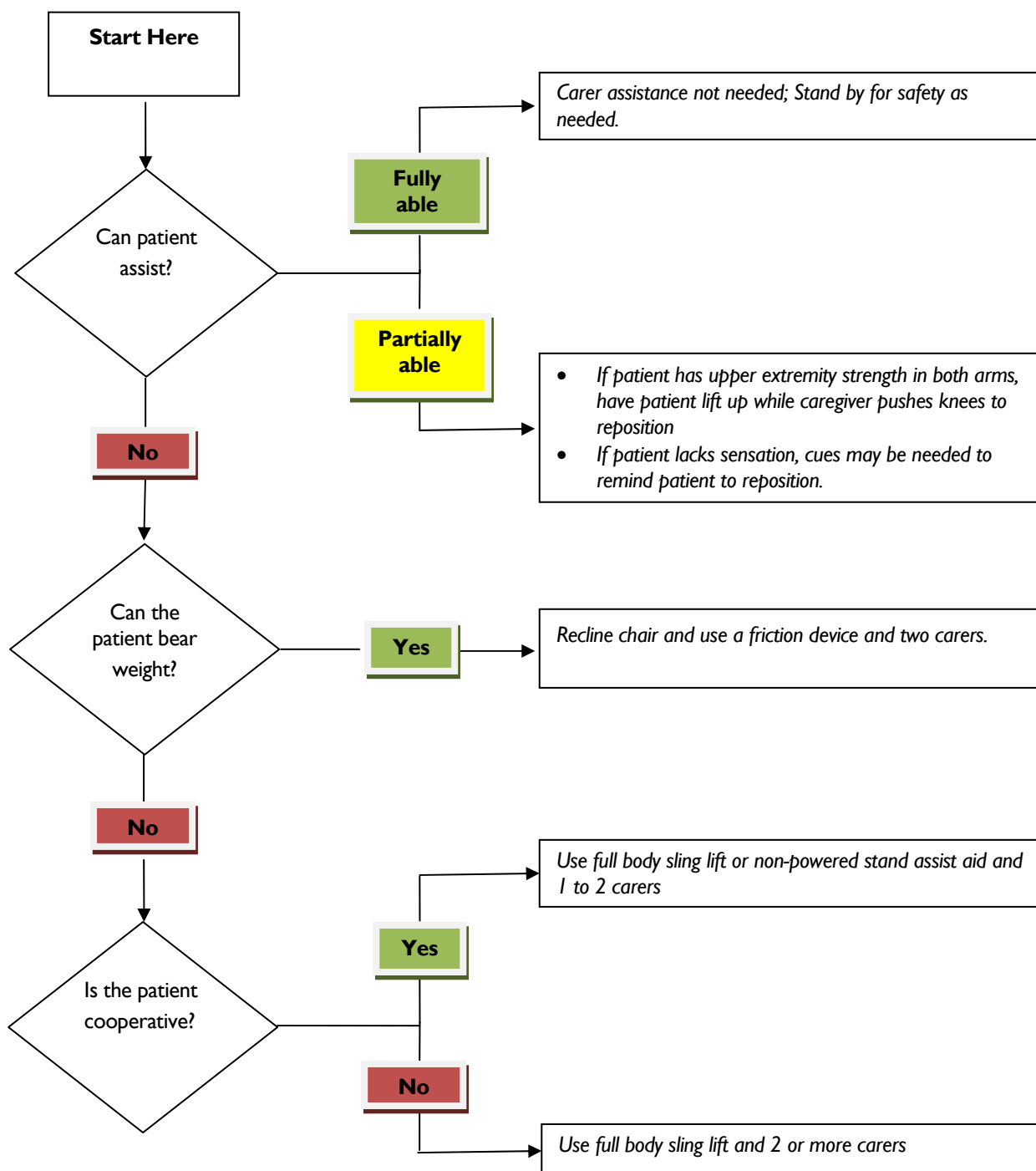


Algorithm 5: Reposition in Chair: Wheelchair and Dependency Chair

Last rev. 23/08/05



- Take full advantage of chair function, e.g., chair that reclines, or use arm rest of chair to facilitate repositioning.
- Make sure the chair wheels are locked.
- During any patient transferring task, if any carer is required to lift more than 35lbs/16kg. of a patient's weight, then the patient should be considered to be fully dependent and assistive devices should be used.

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Note that we have used the original document but changed the terminology where appropriate, for instance adding weights in Kilograms to the originally shown Pounds. **Developed By:** VISN 8 Patient Safety Center | 1605 N. Nebraska Avenue 673/118M Tampa, FL 33612-5738 <http://www.visn8.med.va.gov/patientsafetycenter/> **Center Director:** Audrey Nelson, PhD, RN, FAAN

Algorithm 5: Reposition in Chair: Wheelchair and Dependency Chair

The first decision point is whether or not the patient can assist. If they are fully able, carer assistance is not needed, the patient may or may not use a positioning aid. If they are only partially able, encourage the patient to assist using a positioning aid or cues. If the patient is less than 200lbs/90kg use a slide sheet and 2 to 3 carers. If they are over 200lbs/90kg use a slide sheet and at least 3 carers.

If the patient is not able to assist use a fully body sling hoist and 2 or more carers.

General Notes:

- This is not a one person task; do not pull from the head of the bed.
- When pulling a patient up in bed, the bed should be flat or in a Trendelenburg position (when tolerated) to aid in gravity, with the side rail down.
- For patients with Stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers, care should be taken to avoid shearing force.
- The height of the bed should be appropriate for staff safety (at the elbows).
- If the patient can assist when repositioning up in bed, ask the patient to flex the knees and push on the count of three.
- During any patient handling task, if any carer is required to lift more than 35lbs/16kg of a patient's weight, then the patient should be considered to be fully dependent and assistive devices should be used.

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