
Overview

This standard covers assisting in the preparation of individuals and use of equipment for transfers and precise positioning for clinical procedures within the perioperative environment.

All actions and decisions should be carried out in accordance with current legislation, organisational policies, clinical protocols, and professional standards.

Users of this standard will need to communicate effectively to meet individuals' needs and wishes and work in line with health and safety legislation, policy and practices.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1. identify and agree the roles and responsibilities of yourself and others in assisting in the transfer and positioning of individuals within the perioperative environment
- P2. communicate with the individual and key people at a pace, in a manner and at a level appropriate to the individual's understanding, preferences and needs
- P3. provide support to the individual and ensure health and safety measures are implemented at all times
- P4. refer to the individual's risk assessment documentation for pressure area scoring system to check position and equipment required
- P5. ensure the required positioning equipment is available, fit for purpose and ready for use before beginning the positioning procedure
- P6. prepare the immediate surroundings for the transfer, move and position required, removing any potential hazards
- P7. transfer the individual, moving and positioning them in a way which minimises their pain and discomfort and maintains their safety and dignity
- P8. use safe and suitable moving and handling techniques ensuring:
 - a. you avoid exceeding your personal weight and reach limits
 - b. the safety of the individual and other members of staff
- P9. use positioning equipment safely and correctly in line with manufacturers' instructions and organisational policies
- P10. promptly report any unexpected change in the individual's condition to the appropriate member of the care team
- P11. confirm with the relevant practitioner that the individual is in the correct position to:
 - a. facilitate the clinical procedure
 - b. maintain skin integrity
 - c. avoid nerve damage

P12. use appropriate equipment and monitor the individual in order to:

- a. prevent injury
- b. promote individual comfort
- c. prevent heat loss

P13. contribute to the assessment and evaluation of the individuals skin integrity and document as appropriate

P14. complete all relevant documentation required for assisting in the transfer and positioning of individuals within the perioperative environment

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1. the current legislation, local guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols which are relevant to your work practice and to which you must adhere
- K2. the scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability as it applies to your job role
- K3. how to access and interpret all relevant work instructions and information
- K4. specific procedures for reporting issues which are beyond your competence, responsibilities and accountability
- K5. the hazards and risks which may arise during the execution of your work role and how you can minimise these
- K6. how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to the needs of the individual
- K7. the correct use of any equipment and PPE to protect the health and safety of you and others
- K8. the principles, practice and procedures associated with informed consent
- K9. the needs of individuals including issues relating to dignity, confidentiality, and privacy
- K10. the importance of checking pressure area risk assessment documentation prior to commencing positioning activities
- K11. how individuals may be able or unable to contribute to the transferring and positioning process and factors which limit their contribution
- K12. safe methods and techniques for transferring and positioning individuals
- K13. the importance of co-ordinating actions effectively with others involved
- K14. the types, purpose and function equipment used for moving, handling and transferring individuals

K15. methods for checking and preparing equipment ready for use

K16. the importance of close observation of individuals during transfers, moves and positioning

K17. the importance of ensuring freedom of passage before transferring individuals

K18. the purpose and importance of precise, accurate and stable positioning for perioperative procedures

K19. the effects of medication on individuals and the difference this makes to the safe methods and techniques for transferring and positioning individuals

K20. how to complete all relevant documentation required for assisting in the transfer and positioning of individuals within the perioperative environment

SFHPCS23

Assist in the transfer and positioning of individuals within the perioperative environment



Developed by Skills for Health

Version Number 3

Date Approved 12 Feb 2026

Indicative Review Date 12 Feb 2031

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating Organisation Skills for Health

Original URN SFHPCS23

Relevant Occupations Health and Social Care, Health and Social Services Officers, Health Associate Professionals, Health Professionals, Health, Public Services and Care, Healthcare and Related Personal Services

Suite Perioperative Care Support

Keywords Perioperative, care, assist, transfer, positioning
