

PIC

Product Information For Customers

Hospital beds in the home serve two major purposes:

- They permit body positioning that is not feasible in a regular home bed.
- They permit the attachment of other pieces of equipment that cannot be used on a regular home bed.

Of course, hospital beds may provide several other advantages such as: making it easier and safer for the patient to get in and out of the bed; and to reach a standing position for ambulation with crutches, walker or cane making transfers to and from wheelchairs or bed side commode's easier and safer, and making care giving much easier by placing the bed at a more convenient height for providing assistance with position changes, turning, bathing, eating and performing other bedside care.

Both patient and caregivers should be familiar with all of the basic operations of the bed in order to enjoy maximum benefits from its use. They should also be alert to any unusual noises during operation of the bed, or any changes, such as cranks becoming stiff or more difficult to turn, that might indicate a mechanical problem. Symptoms of this nature should be reported to our office immediately.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

— On manual multi-height models, when facing the foot of the bed, the crank on the left raises and lowers the head section of the spring. The crank on the right raises and lowers the foot section of the spring. The center crank raises and lowers the height of the bed. Turning any of these three cranks clockwise raises and turning any crank counter-clockwise lowers.

... On semi-electric models, the pendant has four buttons. One pair of buttons operates the head spring section, and the other pair operates the foot spring section. In each pair, one button raises, and the other one lowers. The function of each button is indicated on the pendant. The semi-electric models have a manual crank system to raise and lower bed height. This bed height adjustment operates exactly the same as it does on the manual multi-height bed described above.

..... On the full-electric models, the control pendant has six buttons. Four of the buttons are the same as those described above for the semi-electric models. The two additional buttons operate the bed height. One button raises the bed; the other lowers the bed. The function of each button is indicated on the pendant. On both electric models, an emergency crank is furnished. This crank can be inserted into the appropriate sockets at the foot of the bed to allow manual adjustment of all bed functions. This provides emergency back-up operation in the event of power failure or the failure of one of the motors.

For all manual and electric models, before elevating the head section, it is always wise to elevate the thighs first, by raising the foot section slightly. This prevents the patient from sliding down in the bed. Raising the thighs and flexing the knees in this manner also provides a more comfortable position for most individuals.

By raising or lowering the height of the bed, getting in or out of bed can be made much easier. If the patient is using an ambulation aid, such as a walker or cane, the bed height can be increased to make reaching a stable standing position much safer and easier. This allows the caregiver to concentrate his/ her efforts on assisting the patient rather than with struggling to lift the individual up to a standing position.

For transfers to and from a wheelchair or a bedside commode, the bed height can be set slightly higher for transfers out of the bed, and slightly lower for transfers back into bed. This makes transfers easier by using the assistance of gravity. (Making transfers "down hill")

It is extremely important that the brakes be applied on the two locking casters any time the patient is entering or leaving the bed, to prevent the bed from rolling away and causing a fall. Even with these locks applied, patients who are unstable on their feet should not attempt to enter or exit the bed without assistance. The brakes are not absolutely positive. Even though the wheels may not turn, the casters may slide on the floor, allowing the bed to shift, causing an accident. An attendant or caregiver should be present to assist the patient and to help stabilize the bed.

In addition to being helpful with transfers, the bed height can be raised to reduce bending or stooping by the caregiver when assisting the patient with turning or changing positions in bed. This is also helpful during bathing, feeding and other bedside care. This feature is a great "back saver" for the caregiver.

When assisting a patient to turn in bed, the caregiver should first lock the caster brakes and then stand on the side of the bed toward which the individual will be turning. Side rails should be in the up and locked position and the bed set at a height that permits the caregiver to reach over the rails and to roll the patient toward them. Never assist by rolling the patient toward the opposite side of the bed.

Please keep this information available for reference. If questions arise concerning the use or operation of the hospital bed, please call our office.