

Patients at Risk of Falls

This leaflet aims to answer your questions about the way CareFlight manages the risk of patients falling whilst in our care. If you have any further questions, please speak to the CareFlight doctor, nurse or paramedic caring for you during your transport.

What are the risks?

People who have had an accident, or recovering from major injury, may be at a higher risk of having a fall during this period. This could be due to.

- People feeling weaker than usual, especially following the injury
- Loss of confidence in the elderly, especially those who have previously fallen

If you have impaired vision or normally require help with walking or transfers you may also be at increased risk of falling.

What can you do to help reduce the risk?

- If you feel unsteady or unable to walk alone, please ask for help. A nurse or doctor will walk with you until you feel safe and on-board the aircraft.
- Wear sensible, well-fitting footwear when walking for the transport. Ensure if possible that the footwear has a low heel and can be fastened so that you are not likely to slip when walking
- Discuss the possibility of stretcher assisted transport

Unfortunately despite all these interventions, falls may still occur.

What is CareFlight doing to reduce the risk of falls?

CareFlight takes patient safety and the reduction of the occurrence of falls very seriously. Following guidance from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) CareFlight has introduced the following precautions and actions:

- Members of staff involved in your care are trained in falls prevention and management.
- Pre-transport the attending nurse, doctor, or paramedic will assess your mobility and risk of falls, and a plan of care will be devised in consultation with you and your family – this may include stretcher transport. It may be necessary for staff to take precautions in order to maintain your safety. These may include transport on a stretcher rather than a seat, and securing you to the stretcher. These are occasionally used when a patient is confused or disorientated and is a high risk of sustaining a fall from the stretcher.
- With the patient's consent we will endeavour to inform relatives of such a decision as soon as is reasonably possible

FEEDBACK

We welcome compliments, comments, concerns and complaints in order to ensure we continue to provide high quality care to you. You can raise anything from comments to complaints with the professional delivering your care, or alternatively by contacting us.

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language, please contact us.

CONTACT US

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