

A Changes in Environment

The many differences between life at home and in the hospital can lead to falls and accidents!

- Hooking one's feet on the IV stand, or sudden rolling by the stand can cause a fall



- Slippers can lead to slips, stubbed feet and falls



- Medication or sleeping aids can cause drowsiness or confusion that leads to a fall



- Patients may fall when attempting to move to a bedside toilet



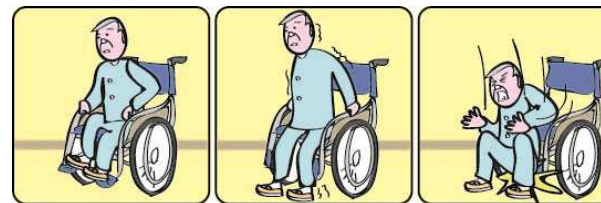
- Patients trying to leave their bed by themselves can trip and/or fall



- A bedside table used as a support when standing can suddenly move and cause a fall



- Patients can lose their balance and fall when trying to stand up from a wheelchair



- Forgetting to set wheelchair brakes can lead to a backwards fall when the chair moves



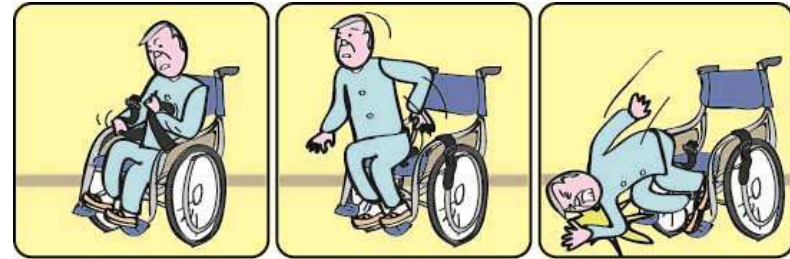
B Changes in Environment

Unfamiliar surroundings, age and other factors can lead to patients becoming restless and/or irritated in the hospital. The understanding and assistance of families is crucial!

- Suddenly sitting up in bed can cause dizziness and a fall



- Removing the safety belt and standing in a wheelchair can cause a fall



- Attempting to remove a bed rail can cause a fall



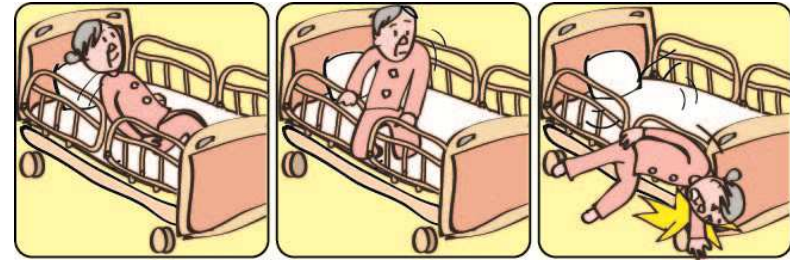
- Continuing or strong restlessness or confusion can lead to falling from bed



- Patients can fall when trying to remove restraints



- Trying to climb out of bed often causes falls



C When Young Children are Hospitalized

Hospitalized children are often scared or worried being away from their families in the hospital. Accidents can happen when beds become playgrounds and when families are present, too.

- Kids can fall if families lower the bed railing and aren't watching



- A toy on the floor can lure a kid into a fall as they reach for it



- Kids can fall when the railing is down when family members are getting out of the bed



- Kids may fall when using a toy as a stool



- Improperly secured railings can cause a fall when active kids bump into them



- Kids can forget about IV stands, and cause an accident if they move quickly or suddenly



D

During Rehabilitation

As patients work to get ready for discharge and self care, falls and other accidents often happen around beds, bathrooms and wheelchairs

- A bedside table used as a support when standing can suddenly move and cause a fall



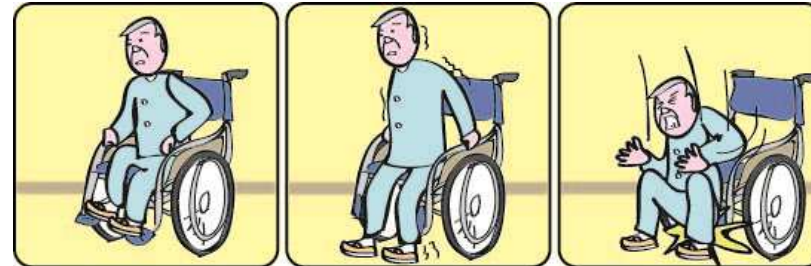
- Forgetting to set wheelchair brakes can lead to a backwards fall when the chair moves



- Patients can lose their balance as they attempt to begin using a walker



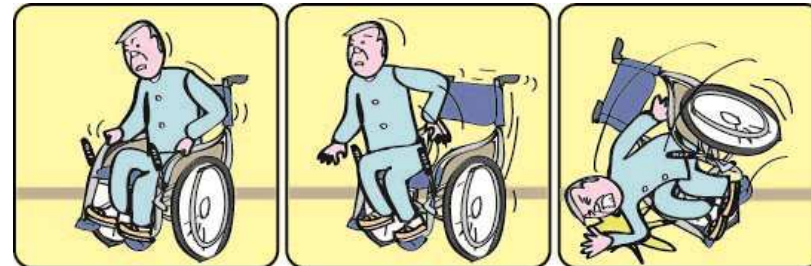
- Patients can lose their balance when standing up from a wheelchair



- Standing up after using the toilet can lead to a fall



- Trying to stand on a wheelchair footrest can lead to a fall



E

For Surgery Patients

Surgery and anesthesia can cause confusion and delirium in the patient, resulting in odd behavior. Tearing off the tubes and other items that may be attached after surgery can cause severe injury and delay recovery significantly.

Monitor

Heart rate, respiration, blood pressure and other data are displayed here



Oxygen Mask

Makes sure the patient's blood supply is saturated with enough oxygen.



Intravenous (IV) Line



Delivers a steady supply of medication to the patient's bloodstream.



Nasogastric (NG) Tube

Used to feed the patient and/or remove any stomach contents



Epidural Anesthesia



Anesthesia used when necessary to ease post-operation pain

Flowtron

Periodically uses air pressure to squeeze the patient's legs, helping prevent blood clots called deep vein thrombosis (a.k.a. "economy class syndrome")



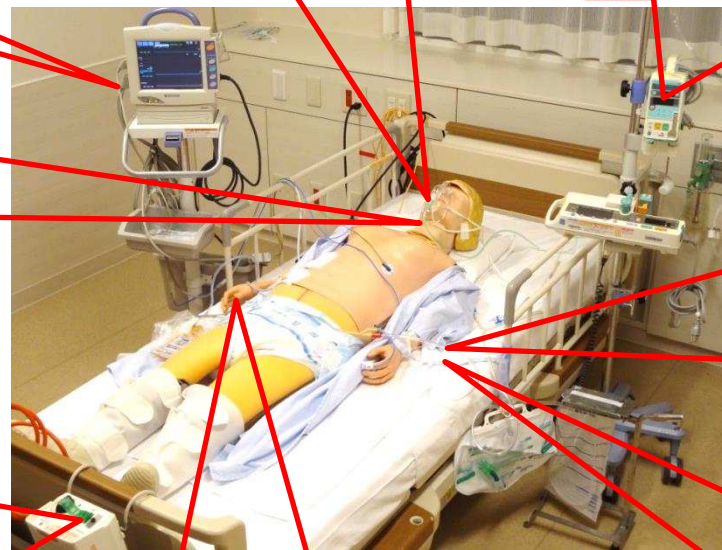
Urinary Catheter

A tube for draining the patient's urine



Drain

After some surgeries, water, blood, lymph or other fluids may need to be drained from the body



F For Patients and Families After Surgery

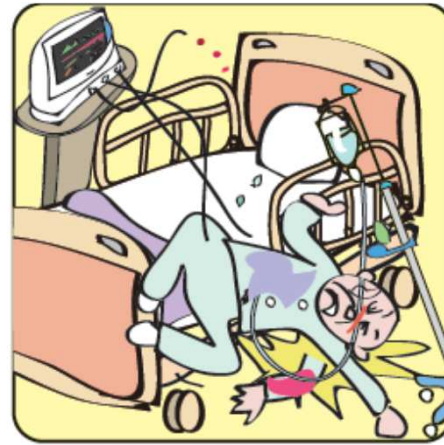
Following surgery, patients will feel weak and be relatively uncoordinated. It's important to accept that some things patients are used to doing may be impossible for a time. Attempting to get out of bed and/or walk could cause tubes to be pulled out and cause serious injury. Always ask a nurse for assistance!

Often, many different machines will be connected to the patient

For example, like this:



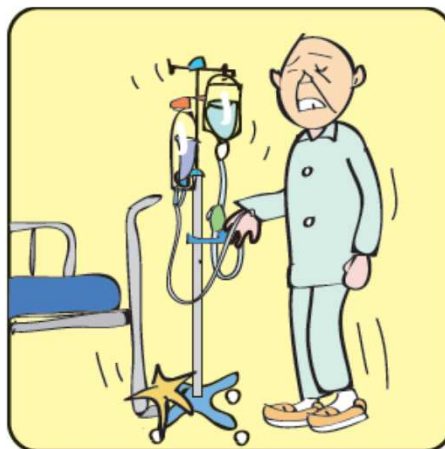
Don't overdo it and try to leave bed unassisted by a nurse



You don't want to end up like this!



Just walking can be really tough!



Ask for help before this is the result

