

Caring for a patient in an enclosure bed

While your patient is in the enclosure bed:

- Check the patient often according to your facility's restraint policy.
- Offer the patient fluids frequently.
- Keep the side rails down and locked.
- Offer frequent toileting.
- Get the patient out of bed for meals as appropriate.
- Check the bed daily for defects, such as torn netting.
- Place I.V. and other tubes only through provided openings.
- Follow the ambulation and exercise or range-of-motion schedule as appropriate.
- Ensure the bed receives daily cleaning using a bleach-based product.
- Make sure the bed is completely zipped and secured before leaving the patient's room.
- Document the reasons for using the bed, renewed bed orders, assessments, and bed discontinuation.

Using the enclosure bed with pediatric patients

As staff in our hospital's adult inpatient units gained more experience with the enclosure bed, pediatric nurses began to use it for certain children with developmental disabilities who were admitted for surgery. Pediatric patients who were severely agitated, threw themselves out of a traditional bed, or hit their heads on the headboard or footboard of a traditional bed were candidates for the bed. A key benefit of the enclosure bed is that it gives parents and other family members a respite period from caring for the child by providing a safe environment.