



www.homecarespecialistsinc.com

Respiratory Therapy & Medical Equipment Services

HCS... *The Leading Company in the Merrimack Valley,
North Shore and Southern New Hampshire*

**24 Hour
Emergency
Number:
1-978-373-7771
1-800-698-8113**

Patient Instructions

Hospital Beds

Hospital Beds enhance home care, ease the caregiver's tasks, and add comfort for the person who is ill. Most people being cared for at home need some degree of bed rest. Bed rest helps injured tissues heal, helps relieve pain, and reduces stress on weakened body systems. A hospital bed lets a person who is weak or injured elevate their head or feet to improve breathing and circulation. With a hospital bed, it can be done without physical effort or a caregiver's help. A hospital bed is higher than a regular bed, saving the caregiver's back and shoulders from strain. Also, it rolls easily on wheels.

There are three types of hospital beds available (manual, semi-electric, and electric), therefore, it is important to consider both the person's and the caregiver's needs. People who cannot get out of bed or are weak or injured, need a semi-electric or electric bed so they can make adjustments themselves. Both the person who requires frequent repositioning and the caregiver may find a manual bed inconvenient; however, the choice may be limited to what your insurance will cover, as determined by your diagnosis.

General Information:

1. Place your hospital bed where it is centrally located, yet can still provide privacy and quiet when required.
2. Place the bed away from the walls so it's easy to reach from either side.
3. There are three (3) types of hospital beds available: manual, semi-electric, and electric. Be sure you know which type you have and exactly how it works.
4. Our Delivery Technician will review the manufacturer's instructions with you. Be sure you read and understand all instructions.
5. Wipe down your hospital bed WEEKLY with a cloth dampened with soap and water.
6. Please call us for any service repairs, malfunctions, or questions.
7. Please notify us if your equipment is no longer needed and it will be picked up as soon as possible.

SAFETY:

1. Keep a bedside call bell and a telephone with an emergency number near the bed. In an emergency, a bedridden person must be able to get help.
2. Lock the wheels to keep the bed securely in place. Unlock the wheels only when you're moving the bed. After you reposition the bed, RELOCK the wheels.
3. To prevent shocks, always unplug an electric bed before washing it or the mattress.
4. Know how to use the emergency crank. Most electric beds have a manual emergency crank to adjust the bed if a malfunction or power failure leaves it stuck in one position.
5. NEVER allow children to play with the bed controls, or on or around the bed unattended.
6. KEEP THE SIDE RAILS UP. Side rails prevent injury that may result from falling out of bed. The side rails also give the person something to grasp when changing position. If you need to get out of bed, call a family member/medical staff for help.