

Stand up to FALLS

How to use bedrails safely

This matrix is designed to guide critical thinking on the risk versus benefits of bedrail use for individual patients.

Decisions about the use of bedrails should be made in the same way as decisions about other aspects of treatment of care.

The matrix emphasises that bedrails should not be used for patients with cognitive impairment or who are suffering from confusion.

	Very immobile (Bedfast or hoist)	Neither independent nor immobile	Mobilise without help
Confused and disorientated	Bedrails NOT recommended	Bedrails NOT recommended	Bedrails NOT recommended
Drowsy	MAY consider bedrails	May use bedrails with care	Bedrails NOT recommended
Orientated and alert	MAY consider bedrails	May use bedrails with care	Bedrails NOT recommended
Unconscious	Bedrails recommended	N/A	N/A

Acknowledgement: This matrix has been informed by the National Health Service National Patient Safety Agency bedrail risk matrix.