FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Guidance on Patient Handling and Mobility Released by FGI

ST. LOUIS – The Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) today announced the release of the second edition of the Patient Handling and Mobility Assessments (PHAMA) white paper. The first edition white paper was published nearly a decade ago as a complement to the 2010 FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities. When it was released, the concepts of safe patient handling and mobility (SPHM) and a patient handling and movement assessment had just been introduced to the Guidelines.

Over the last nine years, interest in safe patient handling and mobility has grown exponentially and the health care industry’s views of SPHM initiatives have changed significantly. Health care organizations are now cognizant that implementing an SPHM program does more than improve workplace safety; it also can enhance quality of life for caregivers and patients, improve patient outcomes by encouraging and supporting early and frequent mobilization, and help prevent costly adverse events stemming from health care professionals attempting to move patients manually.

The goal of revising the PHAMA white paper was to provide updated information about requirements in the 2018 FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction documents that support safe patient handling and mobility. The second edition expands on SPHM content in the Guidelines documents, provides tools to help design and implement SPHM programs that meet the needs of patients and staff, and offers detailed guidance on developing an SPHM business plan.

“Through the second edition of the PHAMA white paper, design professionals are guided to incorporate design criteria that facilitate critical aspects of current care [such as] fostering patient and resident mobilization and safe care of individuals of size,” explains Mary W. Matz, MSPH, CPE, CSPHP, principal author of the second edition. “Increasingly, bodies of evidence point toward mobilization as the single most important method to impact patient outcomes, such as reducing the number of [health care-associated] infections and patients’ length of stay in the hospital, as well as shortening time needed for rehabilitation. Such essential mobilization depends on the use of patient handling technology that is determined through the use of a patient handling and mobility assessment.”

The second edition PHAMA white paper is available for free download on FGI’s website (https://www.fgiguidelines.org) thanks to the generous support of Hillrom. Hillrom, an FGI Keystone Partner, has long been a supporter of safe patient handling and mobility and played a key role in 2015 when FGI worked with clinical, ergonomic, and design professionals to establish evidence-based minimum safe clearances for performing patient handling tasks.

“Hillrom sponsored the white paper as a way to deliver valuable insight to our customers and all those seeking solutions for the patient care environment,” says Howard Karesh, vice president, Communications for Hillrom. “The PHAMA white paper provides unbiased guidance created by subject matter experts to help navigate some of the more difficult decisions customers must make when building or redesigning a patient care area.”

www.fgiguidelines.org
About the Facility Guidelines Institute
The Facility Guidelines Institute is a not-for-profit corporation founded to provide leadership and continuity to the Guidelines for Design and Construction revision process. FGI coordinates development of the Guidelines documents using a multidisciplinary, consensus-based process and provides ancillary services that encourage and improve their application and use. FGI invests revenue derived from sales of the Guidelines in research, the activities of the next revision cycle, and publication of other materials.

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