

### **Language from the Federal Register: 483.25(n) – Bed Rails**

483.25(n) – Bed Rails. The facility must attempt to use appropriate alternatives prior to installing a side or bed rail. If a bed or side rail is used, the facility must ensure correct installation, use, and maintenance of bed rails, including but not limited to the following elements.

- (1) Assess the resident for risk of entrapment from bed rails prior to installation.
- (2) Review the risks and benefits of bed rails with the resident or resident representative and obtain informed consent prior to installation.
- (3) Ensure that the bed's dimensions are appropriate for the resident's size and weight.

#### Referenced articles:

18 US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Food and Drug Administration. (August 23, 1995). FDA Safety Alert: Entrapment Hazards with Hospital Bed Side Rails.

19 US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Hospital Bed Safety Workgroup. (April 2003), Clinical Guidance For the Assessment and Implementation of Bed Rails In Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, and Home Care Settings. Retrieved November 11, 2005 from <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/beds/>.

20 Miles, S. (June 2002). Death between bedrails and air pressured mattresses. *J Am Geriatr Soc*, 50(6), 1124-5.