

Recliner Information from Belknap County Nursing Home

Are you looking to purchase a new recliner for your loved one? Please see below for recommendations from Belknap County Nursing Home Rehabilitation Department regarding safe and appropriate choices when deciding what to purchase.

Fabric

- ❖ Leather or vinyl type fabric is best for cleaning and to decrease risk for infection source.
- ❖ Fabric is discouraged.

Power vs. Manual

- ❖ Power lift recliners often seem like a good idea, however, can sometimes be too complicated to operate for some individuals and unsafe. It can also replace a valued skill that is important in the elderly and that is being able to stand up on their own.
- ❖ Power lifting recliners can create unsafe situations causing the chair to elevate when it is not intended to or elevate higher than is safe. Due to this safety concern, **power lifting recliners** are prohibited.
- ❖ Prior to purchasing any type of power recliner, an evaluation by the Rehab Department needs to be completed to ensure the resident is safe to use it.

Chair Height

- ❖ Consider the height of your loved one when choosing a chair. Shorter individuals do better in lower chairs, and taller individuals have greater ease when standing from a taller height chair.
- ❖ If questioning what height is appropriate feel free to reach out to the Rehab Department at Belknap County Nursing Home for recommendations, and we can certainly take measurements for you.

Fixed is Best and Recommended

- ❖ Swivel chairs can be very unsafe as it provides an unstable surface when sitting or standing.
- ❖ Rocking chair can be comforting, however can provide greater difficulty for elderly residents to stand from a moving chair.
- ❖ Fixed chair options provide the most amount of stability when sitting or standing.

Please remember that recliners can last several years. Residents may be able to safely utilize these options now, but in time may become unsafe for them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time at 603-729-1218

Alison Shiel, Rehab Director