### 3E: Clinical Pathway for Safe Patient Handling

**Background:** This tool is a clinical pathway that illustrates appropriate application of safe patient handling principles, which are part of universal fall precautions (described in more detail in section 3).

**Reference**: Developed by VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8) Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, Tampa, Florida.

**How to use this tool:** Use this and other safe patient handling pathways available at:[www.visn8.va.gov/VISN8/PatientSafetyCenter/safePtHandling/SafePatientHandlingAssessment\_Algorithms\_031209.doc](http://www.visn8.va.gov/VISN8/PatientSafetyCenter/safePtHandling/SafePatientHandlingAssessment_Algorithms_031209.doc) as a guideline to compare against your current care processes for safe patient handling. Additional training on safe patient handling for frontline staff is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2009-127/default.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2009-127/default.html).

This tool can be used by the nurse manager, staff nurses, and nursing assistants as an aid in designing a new system, as a training tool, or as an ongoing clinical reference tool. This tool can be modified or a new one created to meet the needs of your particular setting.

