

## STUDENT HANDOUT

### Putting Safety into Practice<sup>1</sup>

DIRECTIONS: Read the scenario and make notes to consider how to best provide safe care using the four-step process to ensure patient safety.

*Mary is a new HCA working on a General Medicine Unit.*

*She is about to go into Mr. Lee's room to assist him to the bathroom for morning care. Mr. Lee shares his hospital room with one other gentleman.*

*Mary confirms instructions for morning care with the RN and finds out from his chart that Mr. Lee requires stand by assistance with his mobility and wears a gait belt<sup>2</sup> while he is walking. Mary confirms that she will observe and supervise while Mr. Lee moves from a sitting to standing position and while he walks from his bed to the bathroom.*

*Mary begins to set up the space. She gathers towels, a change of hospital gown, and toiletries. She looks for his gait belt but cannot find one next to his bed. She notes there is one hanging by his roommate's closet door.*

*Keeping in mind a standard process, Mary considers the "Prevent, Check, Respond, and Report" steps.*

- 
- ✓ **Prevent** – What actions or measures should Mary put in place to minimize the chance of a safety event?
  
  - ✓ **Check** – How should Mary prepare herself, the environment, and others before proceeding with the task?
  
  - ✓ **Respond** – What actions should Mary take to eliminate or minimize an identified safety risk(s)?
  
  - ✓ **Report** – What and to whom should Mary report about safety concerns or incidents?

---

<sup>1</sup> Island Health (2012).

<sup>2</sup> A gait belt may also be called a walking, ambulation or transfer belt, depending on the setting. HCA instructors may wish to lead a discussion about related equipment used by HCAs and other health care professionals in their local health authorities.