



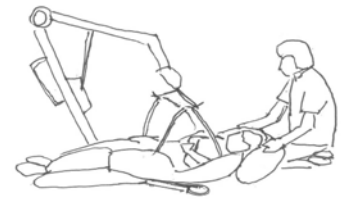
SUBJECT: Assisting the fallen person

RECIPIENTS: Adult Care / Care Homes/ Care Agencies

ISSUE DATE: Oct 2014

REF: HSB41

The East Midlands Ambulance Service report that they are frequently called out to Care Homes and by Home Carers to assist a fallen person up from the floor. The Lincolnshire Inter-Agency Moving and Handling Group have issued clear guidance on dealing with this issue which can be found in the LCC Corporate Moving and Handling People Policy –[Appendix H –Fallen Person Protocol](#).



This protocol clearly explains how to deal with emergency situations as well as assisting the uninjured fallen person. There are several options for assisting a person from the floor explained in this document, and, where possible, these methods should be used rather than asking the Ambulance Service to provide assistance.

EMAS continue to be called out to hoist a person from the floor. It is the responsibility of the home/care agency to ensure that staff are suitably trained in hoisting and that where there is a likelihood of falls, a Moving and Handling Assessment should be completed.

The options available to assist the uninjured person would include:

- **The person getting up from the floor themselves** with minimal assistance from staff. This may involve the use of a chair or where safe to do so by using the stairs.
- **The use of a hoist** and an appropriate hoist sling to raise the person from the floor and lift them onto the bed or chair. (Mobile or ceiling track hoist depending on the situation and availability of equipment). This option must only be used when a sufficient number of trained staff are available to use the hoisting equipment and reference should be made to the person's Moving and Handling Assessment and Handling Plan.
- **Use of an inflatable lifting aid.** If this is already within the home and sufficient trained staff are available.
- **Manual lifting of the person.** This is a high risk activity which may injure staff or the person being moved and should be avoided unless the person is in imminent danger.