

The SDS Vest™ - Testimonials

"I have been a Physical Therapist for eight years and have been blessed with the opportunity to serve patients in the inpatient acute, inpatient rehab, home health, and outpatient settings. Traditionally, we have used the gait belt to ensure safety during ambulation and transfers. It has proven to be an effective tool in controlling center of mass when ambulating a patient with balance and coordination deficits. However, it is less effective with transfers, particularly with patients who require greater physical assist. A belt offers lateral stability but does little to stabilize the patients superiorly. Simply put, it slips upward. This creates an obvious comfort issue, but even more importantly, a safety issue. On the other end of the spectrum we as therapists have effectively used the Hoyer lift for very difficult transfers. This revolutionized our ability to safely transfer obese patients and others who are dependent transfers. It gave independence to otherwise bedbound individuals.

"There seems to be a void in DME available to the clinician and family member for patients who require minimal to maximum assist during transfers. A gait belt does not seem to offer enough stability and support; a Hoyer lift can be "overkill," and, as a passive technique, it does not allow us to actively engage our patients. We advocate empowering our patients when it does not compromise safety of the patient, family or clinician.

"The vest has key design features that will enable a trained clinician or family member to actively transfer a patient while increasing safety and comfort. I have had the opportunity to field test the SDS Transfer Vest™ and found immediate benefits to its design. Traditionally, we as clinicians have several options to perform a difficult transfer. One is to place the hands near the ischial tuberosities – effective for controlling a patient's center of mass, but next to impossible with patients with extensor tone or who extend their trunk due to fear of falling. You simply run out of hands. In the case of stroke or hemiparetic patients, the unstable shoulder demands careful attention and contraindicates subaxillary assists for fear of glenohumeral dislocation/subluxation. I have used the SDS Transfer Vest in both of these scenarios. In the case of the first, having a continuous vest structure encasing the patient's trunk enables greater manipulation and control of the center of mass. In the second scenario, the vest has handles placed anteriorly and posteriorly so that the glenohumeral complex is never being distracted during a transfer. There is also an immeasurable factor that is difficult to quantify when using a vest design. My patients report feeling more "secure" having the vest snugly wrapped around them, likely helping to establish trust and building confidence in patients who are anxious with transfers. This effect is even more beneficial to the family/caregiver who may not be as experienced as the clinician at transfer techniques.

"Through clinical trials, the vest shows promise to help transfer patients safely and comfortably. However, the vest is a tool and not a substitution for proper transfer technique. When combined with proper transfer mechanics, the vest serves as a viable option in serving the needs of our diverse patient population."

Chau Phan MPT, OCS
Advantage Therapy Solutions,
Santa Ana, California

"Family liked it once they got used to it. Most important were the handles where they could get a good hold without slipping, as might happen with a loose gait belt."

Binh Phan, PTA

*Advantage Therapy Solutions,
Costa Mesa, CA*

"The SDS Transfer Vest is a useful product for individuals who require more support during a transfer than a traditional gait belt provides. It has been particularly useful with a large gentleman who has severe drop seizures. Because of his size and the various sizes/heights of staff, the multiple hand holds on this vest are invaluable for allowing him to be safely lowered during seizures and yet accommodate the needs of different sized staff members.

"It has also been particularly useful with clients who have had abdominal surgery as it spreads the pressure and allows staff of different sizes to use whichever handles allow them to maintain their best posture while providing assistance during transfers.

"We have found this particular vest to be easy to don and doff, and it is relatively intuitive which helps minimize time spent on staff inservicing. Both clients and staff have liked the transfer vest, and compliance has been good."

Kris A. Tottori, MPT

*Denton State Supported Living Center,
Denton, Texas*

"The SDS Transfer Vest worked really well for me with Mr. Ho because he was such a dependent patient to work with. The configuration allowed me to hold him up either anteriorly or posteriorly, and he said it gave him reassurance and added security knowing that the vest would allow me to hold him up with not much difficulty. It was well worth using it during my treatment sessions."

Oliver de la Paz, PTA

*Rancho Los Amigos,
Downey, CA*

"As a nurse working in various healthcare settings, I was very excited about the SDS Transfer Vest. I can honestly tell you, as someone who comes home with back and shoulder pain due to repetitive motion transfers, the vest has been very beneficial to me. Then, to see the look on my residents' faces, that they actually feel secure rather than scared to death we are going to drop them – it's worth its weight in gold. Prevention of injury is critical to delivering Quality of Care into our national healthcare system, and this product is an example of what our healthcare system needs to focus on, prevention, rather than just treatment.

Mary DeOllios, LVN

*The Cottage of Spring Branch,
Houston, Texas*

"Having owned and operated assisted-living and Alzheimer's facilities for over 20 years, and as a current member of the board of directors for the Assisted Living Federation of America

(ALFA), I can assure you that this product will have a significant impact on the assisted living industry. I expect The SDS Transfer Vest to truly become the product of choice for transferring patients in a broad range of health care settings including home health care use. We are currently using the product with our residents; their families have embraced it because it increases the safety, dignity and security of their loved ones, while also reducing the risk of injury to our caregivers."

Skip Comsia, President

Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA) Board Member, President, SRC Retirement, Houston, Texas

"I have been working as a nurse in assisted living for more than 10 years with geriatric patients, and I have seen many different tools to use for transferring residents. The SDS Transfer Vest has worked best for us; it reduces the risk of stress to our caregivers. We find that we have reduced the instance of injury for our caregivers drastically over the last several years after we began using the transfer vest. In the past we used gait belts or just the traditional lifting: one or two caregivers grabbing the arms of the residents. The transfer vest reduces the risk of stress on our caregivers. Lifting is the most dangerous thing they do and the easiest way they can hurt themselves; this really reduces the burden on their backs. At the same time, it has the benefit of reducing the stress on the resident, so it's a win-win. Plus, the company benefits from improved Quality of Care and reduced workmens' compensation claims, too.

"Another reason we like the transfer vest in our communities is that it can only be placed on a resident in one way, as opposed to a gait belt, often placed incorrectly on the resident. I believe that once we train the care staff properly and they know how to place the Transfer Vest on the residents, it's impossible for them to misuse it. In over 10 years in assisted living, I have watched caregivers struggle time and time again to transfer elderly residents; it's exciting to see how the vest helps our caregivers and reduces the stress on them. It makes a transfer look easy, even when it's not. The caregivers are excited when they see it and ask, "What is that? Show me how to use it!" We get the same reaction from family members, residents, home health companies, and physical therapists who see us use the vest; they often ask where they can get one. We even have had employees with an ailing family member say the vest would make their family's life easier at home."

Linda Glaza, Director of Operations

Director of Operations, SRC Retirement, Houston, Texas