

NEEDS FOR ESCORT - ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following is a guidance and not definitive and should be used in conjunction with other patient related information.

Those things that require to be taken in to consideration are as follows:

- The patient's state of mind and vulnerability
- The level of support available in the receiving ward / department
- The severity of the patient's current presenting condition
- If medical devices are in use

An appropriately trained and competent member of nursing staff or a medical practitioner must accompany patients in the following situations:

- Any patient requiring an interventional / invasive procedure in the receiving department (unless the receiving department can confirm that they have sufficient staff that the nurse from the parent ward will not be required to stay).
- Any patient requiring diagnostic / interventional procedure out of hours
- A patient being ventilated or where respiratory ability is compromised i.e. difficulty in breathing, distressed, stridor, abdominal breathing.
- Any patient who has been given an intravenous opiate within one hour prior to the transfer
- Any patient on continuous IV therapy
- Any patient who has altering degrees of consciousness
- Any patient who is excessively confused or aggressive
- Any patient who has a drainage system in situ (not urinary catheters)
- A patient with cognitive impairment. If the patient's own carer or family member is present an escort may not be required and this should be risk assessed
- Any patient who is being held under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003
- All children under 16, however following risk assessment it may be that the child can be escorted by a parent or a Clinical Support Worker where there is not a clinical requirement

NB. If the parent ward is unable to provide an escort for the transfer the Nurse in Charge of the ward or department should notify the appropriate bleep holder and alternative arrangements should be made. This may be the department co-ordinator, the site manager or the duty charge nurse etc.