



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/  
Adverse Event Information

## Medical Safety Information

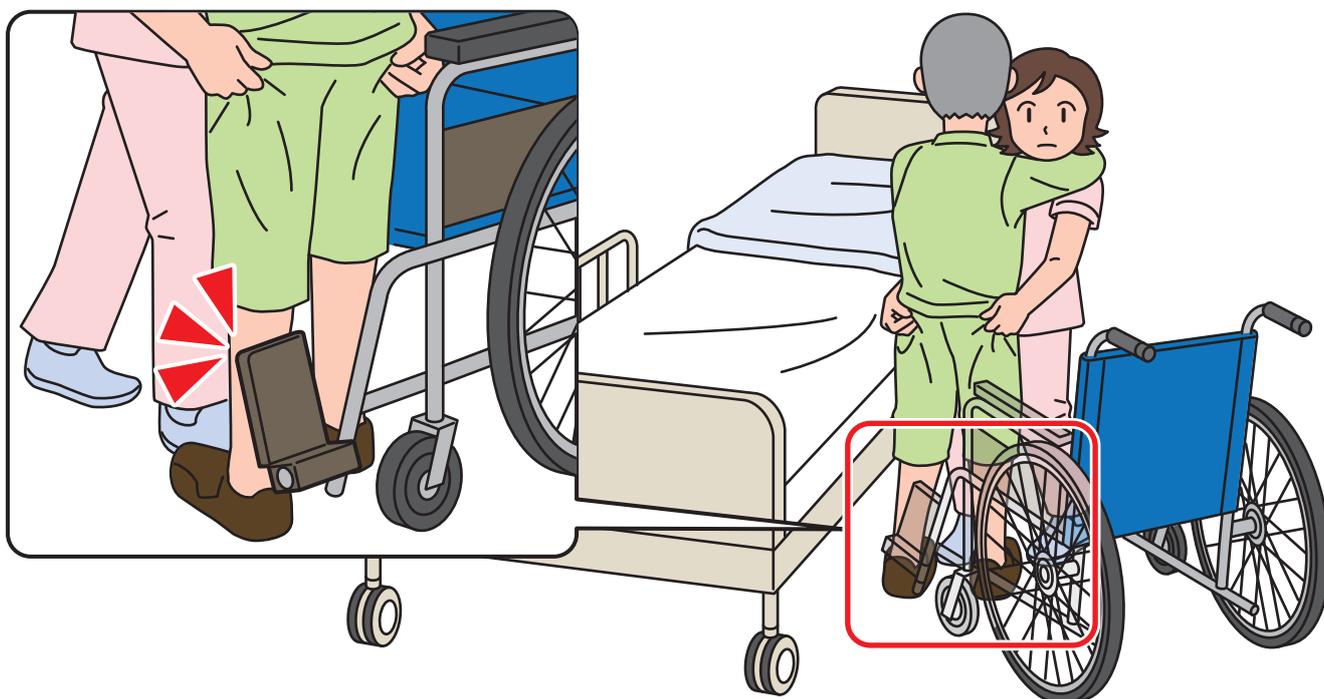
# Injury from a Wheelchair Footrest

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Eighteen cases have been reported in which a patient was injured when their leg came into contact with a wheelchair footrest when a medical staff member was helping them into or out of a wheelchair (information collection period: from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018). This information was compiled on the basis of the content featured in the Analysis Themes section of the 54th Quarterly Report.

**Cases have been reported in which a patient was injured when their leg came into contact with a wheelchair footrest. Patients with fragile skin are at greater risk of suffering skin damage.**

Image of case 1



## Injury from a Wheelchair Footrest

### Case 1

The patient had fragile skin due to taking Predonine and suffering from anasarca. When the nurse was helping the patient out of a wheelchair into the bed, the hem of the patient's pants lifted and the footrest came into direct contact with the patient's leg. After transferring to the bed, the patient complained of pain in their leg, so the nurse checked and found that the skin had torn, exposing a patch of fascia measuring approximately 8×5 cm. The patient was examined by a physician and received 18 sutures.

### Case 2

When the patient was transferring from the bed to a wheelchair, the physical therapist supported the patient from the front, while two nurses assisted. The patient stood up, but nobody was checking the patient's legs when changing the direction the patient was facing so that they could sit down in the wheelchair. The patient said, "Ouch!," so they checked and found that the patient's leg had come into contact with the footrest and was bleeding. A surgeon inserted seven sutures.

#### Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- Ascertain the patient's condition, then consider how to assist them and how many people should assist.
- Place covers on footrests.
- When transferring patients with fragile skin, have them wear pants or socks, etc. to protect their legs.

A warning about skin damage was provided in "Follow-up Report on Manual Wheelchair Foot Supports," which was published by the Consumer Safety Investigation Commission on August 25, 2017.

[http://www.caa.go.jp/policies/council/csic/information/pdf/csic\\_information\\_170825\\_0001.pdf](http://www.caa.go.jp/policies/council/csic/information/pdf/csic_information_170825_0001.pdf)

\* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See the Project website for details.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

\* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

\* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

