

Peter's Story



CASE STUDY: Reducing risk of injury

*Debra Corney Consultant Occupational Therapist
BSc Hons, HCPC Registered*

➤ Case Study:

Forty-nine year old Peter has an acquired brain injury following a road traffic accident. Peter is unable to mobilise himself and is dependent on a self-propel wheelchair for all mobility. Peter transfers between furniture by sliding from one piece of furniture to the other at a 90 degree angle. Peter is able to follow basic instruction; however, he requires support to ensure he is able to carry out most of his daily living tasks safely, as he can be impulsive and has poor risk awareness.

When transferring into bed, Peter slides with minimal difficulty from the wheelchair to sit on the edge of the bed, however, he has significant difficulty lifting his legs onto the bed. Once sat on the bed's edge, Peter would use his whole body weight to swing his legs into bed. This was a very uncontrolled movement and placed him at significant risk of injuring himself on the bed rails, or falling out of bed on the other side if the bed rails were not in use. Several interventions have been trialled, including a powered leg lifter, support from the monkey pole, carer support, and a low profiling bed of 200mm. Unfortunately, none of these interventions were successful and so Peter continued to place himself at risk.

➤ Results:

Using a FloorBed, Peter is able to slide from the wheelchair onto the edge of the bed and lowers the bed to the floor. He no longer requires the leverage of his full body weight to bring his legs onto the bed. Now, Peter leans on the back rest and 'walks' his feet round to the foot end of the bed, where he slides his legs onto the bed. The floor height of the bed enables Peter to bring his legs onto the bed in a much more controlled manner, significantly reducing the risk of an injury. In addition, the bed rails can be removed, since the floor height reduces the risk of injury in the event of a bed fall.