

SUBJECT: SMALL ADAPTIVE DEVICES FOR ADLs	REFERENCE #8113
DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES	PAGE: 1 OF: 2
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

POLICY:

- Rehabilitation Services staff ensures all small adaptive devices are used safely and correctly by all patients.
- Proper, safe and consistent use of small adaptive devices can maximize the patient’s level of independence.
- Small adaptive equipment devices commonly used include:
 - Long handled reacher:
 - To enable the patient to retrieve objects from the floor, cupboard or other areas that may be difficult or unsafe for him/her to reach. Reachers are often used by the patient who has had a hip replacement or is on total hip precautions.
 - Long handled sponge:
 - To enable the patient to wash lower extremities if unable to do so due to poor dynamic sitting balance, or the patient on total hip or spinal precautions;
 - Utensil with built-up handles:
 - Provides a larger grasp for the patient with weak grasp or decreased range of motion in the hand.
 - Stocking aid:
 - Allows ability to reach feet without bending forward or pulling knees higher than hip. Beneficial for the (total hip) patient with spinal or total hip precautions.
 - Dressing stick:
 - An aid for donning clothes. Used by the total hip or spinal precaution patient or the patient with limited range of motion.

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- Plate guard:
 - Provides a ledge to scoop food against and onto utensil. Helpful for the patient with use of only one (1) hand.
- Swivel spoon:
 - This spoon remains in an upright position even though the handle may be turned due to decreased range of motion or shakiness.
- Button hook:
 - Used to assist in buttoning with one (1) hand or to assist for decreased finger dexterity.
- Cup:
 - Allows the patient to drink with hand tipped slightly forward. This is a safer method than tipping the head backward which opens the airway and increases risk of aspiration.