

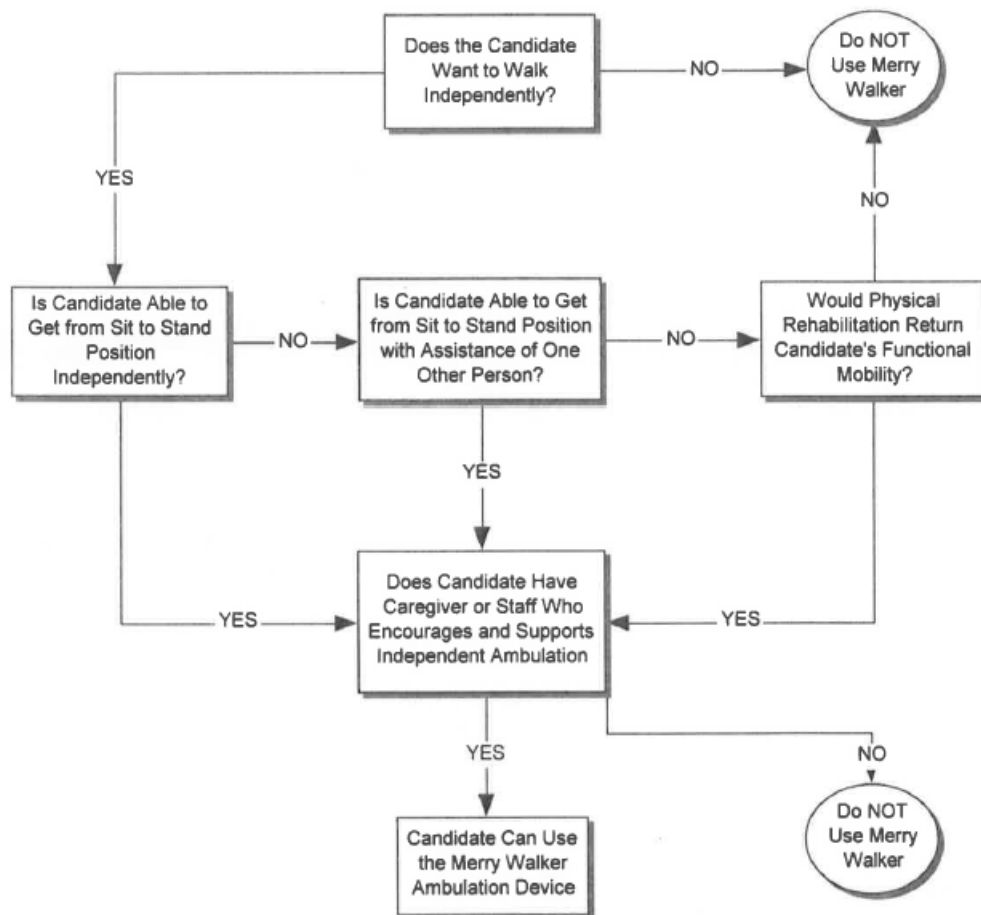
Title: MERRY WALKER

Purpose of Guidelines: To provide a method of safe and independent ambulation for patients who would normally be placed in a wheelchair

Procedure:

1. The purpose of the Merry Walker is to give patients the chance to walk safely.
2. The Merry Walker is not considered a restraint as long as the patient is able to get themselves out of the walker.
3. The patient must be assessed by utilizing the attached flow chart located in the Senior Behavioral Health policy every shift and with change of condition.

**Who Should Use the Merry Walker
Ambulation Device?**



4. The use of the Merry Walker will be documented by the nurse in the multidisciplinary progress notes.
5. MEDIUM walker: patient height of 5'3" to 5'7 and 95-300 pounds

6. LARGE walker: patient height of 5'8" to 6' and 600 pounds in weight.
7. Treatment plan will indicate usage of Merry Walker under fall intervention
8. Have the patient sit down in the walker and look around. The front cross bar must be secured and place the safety strap between the patient's legs and secure over the top of the front cross bar. Ask the patient to stand up by placing their hands on the side rails. Have the patient place their hands on the front cross bar and start walking.
9. If the patient becomes tired and begins falling asleep while in the walker, take patient out of walker and attempt to lay the patient down for rest periods.
10. If a patient begins to attempt to "climb out" of the walker, please discontinue use of the Merry Walker for patient safety.
11. A staff member must off toileting at a minimum of every 2 hours and after every meal when a patient is utilizing the Merry Walker.
12. The Merry Walker is to be sanitized and cleaned between each patient (purple wipes) use per UTMC infection control policy. The fabric on the chair must be laundered after each patient use. After cleaning, the walker will be stored in the Clean Equipment room.
13. The patient cannot be left unattended while in the Merry Walker – patient is a LINE OF SIGHT while in the walker

Reviewed by Lindsay Watson, MSW, LSW, Administrative Director

Approved: 1/2017

Reviewed: 12/2022

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