

PATIENT POSITION CHEAT SHEET

SUPINE

Patient lies flat on their back with their arms by their side.



Pros: allows access to chest, abdomen, and airway.

Pressure injuries on: occiput, scapulae, elbows, sacrum, coccyx, and heels.

PRONE

Patient lies face-down on their abdomen.



Pros: allows access to back of the body. Can alleviate musculoskeletal pain. Promotes ventilation.

Pressure injuries on: face, clavicle, elbow, chest/breasts, genitals, pelvis, knees, feet, toes

LATERAL

Patient lies on one side of the body with one arm bent uptoward their head.



Pros: allows access to back of the body. Can alleviate pressure on supine pressure points.

Pressure injuries on: ear, shoulder, elbow, hip, inner and outer knee, ankle, and heel

TRENDELENBERG

Patient's lies on their back (supine) but their head is lower than their feet.



Pros: allows better access to the pelvis during surgery; reduces pelvic pressure. Useful to boost patients up.

Pressure injuries on: occiput, scapula, elbow, sacrum, heels.

EducationRN



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REVERSE TRENDELENBERG

Patient's lies on back (supine) but bed is tilted so the head is higher than the feet.



Pros: can lower central venous pressure without decreasing blood pressure.

Pressure injuries on: occiput, scapula, elbow, sacrum, heels.

FOWLER'S

Patient's is in a semi-sitting position in bed with the head of bed elevated 45-60°



Pros: promotes lung expansion, needed for NG tube, increase bed mobility, comfort, decrease pressure on abdominal incision

Pressure injuries on: head, shoulder, sacrum, buttock, heel

SEMI-FOWLER'S

Patient's is in a semi-sitting position in bed with the head of bed elevated 30-45°



Pros: needed for NG tube, increase bed mobility, comfort, decrease pressure on abdominal incision

Pressure injuries on: head, shoulder, sacrum, buttock, heel

HIGH-FOWLER'S

Patient's is in a semi-sitting position in bed with the head of bed elevated 60-90°



Pros: promotes lung expansion, needed for NG tube, increase bed mobility

Pressure injuries on: head, shoulder, sacrum, buttock, heel

EducationRN