

# Safe-T-Chair® IN THE NEWS

## Study by AIC

American International College Division of Physical Therapy, Springfield, MA.

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I N T E R N A T I O N A L  
C O L L E G E

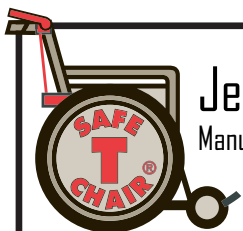
The purpose of this study was to **evaluate the effectiveness of an automatic manual wheelchair braking system** in the reduction of falls for patients at high risk of falls while transferring to and from a manual wheelchair. The study design was a normative survey carried out through the use of a written questionnaire sent to **60 skilled nursing facilities** to collect data from the medical charts, which identified patients at high risk for falls who used an automatic wheelchair braking system. The facilities participating in the study identified a frequency of falls of high-risk patients while transferring to and from the wheelchair ranging from 2 to 10 per year, with a median fall rate per facility of 4 falls. One year after the installation of the automatic wheelchair braking system, participating facilities demonstrated a reduction of zero to three falls during transfers by high-risk patients, with a median fall rate of zero falls. This represents a **statistically significant reduction of 78% in the fall rate** of high-risk patients while transferring to and from the wheelchair,  $t(18) = 6.39, p < .0001$ . Incident reports of falls to and from manual wheelchairs were reviewed retrospectively for a 1-year period. This study suggests that high-risk fallers transferring to or from manual wheelchairs sustained significantly fewer falls when the Steddy Mate automatic braking system for manual wheelchairs was installed. The application of the automatic braking system allows clients, families/caregivers, and facility personnel an increased safety factor for the reduction of falls from the wheelchair.

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Safe-T-Chair®*

## The Safe-T-Chair® Advantage

OUR Safe-T-Chair® system is the only fall prevention and anti-rollback/automatic breaking system on the market with these quality features:

- Does not interfere with folding or normal operations of the wheelchair
- Palm release for easy movement of unoccupied wheelchair
- No under seat pressure points
- Easy lock-off for ambulating patients, with auto reset
- No assembly required, delivered ready to use



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