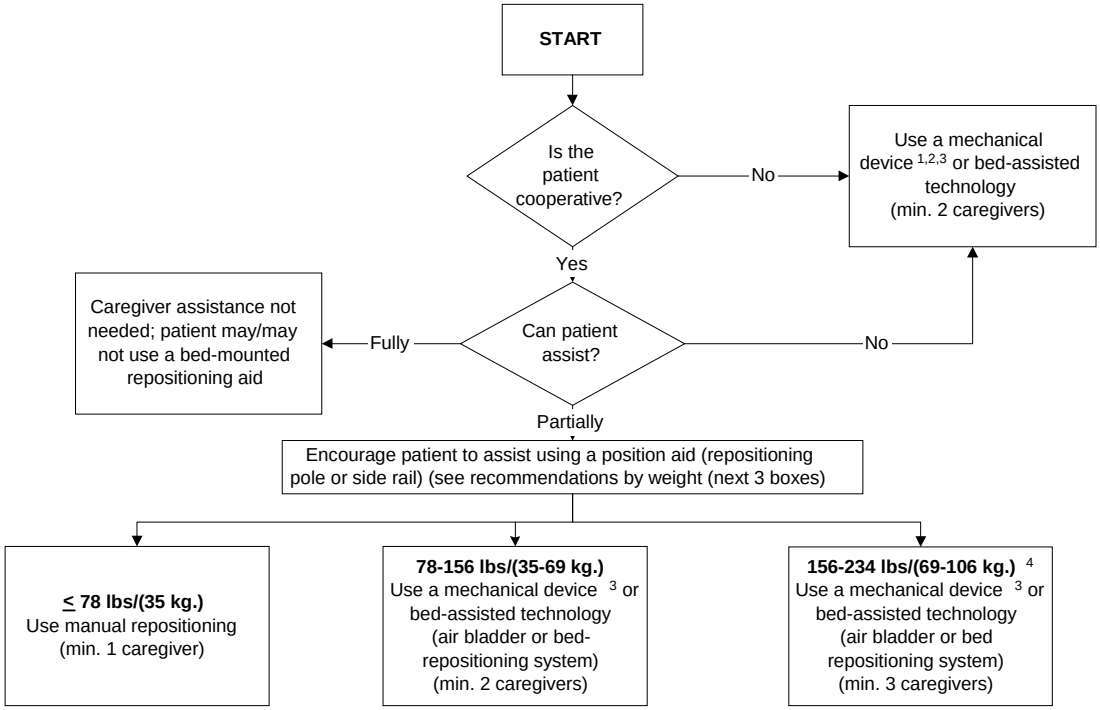
Orthopaedic Algorithm #1: Turning Patient in Bed (Side-to-Side)

Patient with Orthopaedic Impairments



FOOTNOTES:

1. Maintain orthopaedic precautions as prescribed while performing this activity such as total hip, knee, shoulder, or spine precautions.
2. Select sling to meet and maintain the patient's pre-op or post-op positioning guideline/precautions for the affected limb/body part(s). For more information on sling section, see Appendix A.
3. Examples of repositioning mechanical devices are: **Turning clips:** these simple slips attach to a bed sheet and can be used with a floor-based lift or ceiling-based lift to facilitate turning a patient. **Turning straps/slings:** one end of these straps or slings is connected to the bed and the other end is attached to either a ceiling or floor based lift to facilitate turning the patient. **Powered mechanical devices:** a ceiling lift is a powered overhead lift that can be used with a repositioning sling to turn a patient in bed. **Friction reducing devices:** either tubular in design, or two separate pieces of material are placed under the patient to assist in turning the patient in bed or moving the patient to the head of the bed. **Pulley systems:** these devices work by use of a pulley system and an overhead frame. The user turns a crank, which engages the pulley system to retract straps that are connected to a rod and bed sheet, thus turning the patient on the side.
4. If the patient weighs more than 234 lbs. mechanical assistive devices should be used to assist. Use your best clinical judgment for the number of caregivers required to assist.

GENERAL NOTES:

- For any patient who has, or is at risk for a pressure ulcer, care should be taken to avoid shearing force (such as using a friction reducing device for repositioning in bed). Shearing force is when there are two forces moving in opposite directions adjacent to each other (like scissors).
- The height of the bed should be appropriate for staff safety (at elbow height).
- During any patient handling task, if the caregiver is required to lift more than 35 lbs./(16 kg.) of a patient's weight, then the patient should be considered fully dependent and an assistive device should be used. (Waters, T. [2007]. When is it safe to manually lift a patient? *American Journal of Nursing, 107*(8), 53-59).