



Department of Health  
and Human Services

Maine People Living  
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

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March 4, 2010

Senator Joseph C. Brannigan, Chair  
Representative Anne C. Perry, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
#100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

**Subject: Report on the use of Side Rails in Nursing Facilities**

Dear Senator Brannigan and Representative Perry and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

PL 2005 Chapter 60 requires the Department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the use of bed side rails as restraints on the following scheduled: January 1, 2008, January 1, 2009 and January 1, 2010. This is the last of three reports.

Data on the use of side rails and other devices is collected on the comprehensive assessment form completed on all residents quarterly. The last roster of residents was completed on December 15, 2009. The following information pertains to the use of devices and restraints daily and less than daily on that date. We believe that this snapshot is representative of any given point in time in nursing facilities:

	Daily	<Daily	Not Used
Full bed rails on all open sides of the bed	10	2	6162
Other Types of side rails used (e.g. Half rails, one side)	197	9	5968

Please contact me if you would like further information on the use of side rails and other devices in nursing facilities.

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Harvey  
Commissioner

BMH/klv

cc: Catherine Cobb, Dir., DLRS