To provide effective chest compressions the patient must be lowered to the floor. This manoeuvre should be carried out in a safe and controlled manner. Transferring a patient from a seated position onto the floor is high risk. Do not move the patient directly from the chair to the bed/trolley. An exception to this may be if the patient is already sitting on a sling and a hoist is readily available.

The optimal number of people required to perform this transfer is three. If fewer than three people are available, a less than optimal transfer may have to be attempted. Wherever possible wait for additional people to provide assistance.

**Three-person transfer**

- The chair must be secure, with any brakes in the ON position
- If a sliding sheet is readily available, place it under the patient’s feet and extend their legs to enable the feet and legs to slide away from the chair as the patient is lowered onto the floor
- One rescuer supports the head by standing at the side of the chair, level with the patient’s head
- The other two rescuers face the patient in the chair, and position themselves slightly in front and to the side of the chair
- These rescuers get into a half-kneeling position with their innermost knee on the floor and grasp hold of the patient at the back of the pelvis/hip region with their outermost hand and behind the patient’s knee with their innermost hand. An alternative is to use the high-kneeling position which some rescuers may find more comfortable

[REBA score 9 of kneeling rescuers]
• If the patient is dressed it may be helpful to grab hold of their clothing or belt

• On the command from one rescuer, each kneeling rescuer transfers their body weight back towards their heels. This pulls the patient forwards out of the chair into a sitting position on the floor with their back resting against the chair

![Diagram showing patient sliding forward on the floor]

**NOTE:** A pillow placed on the floor to cushion the fall acts as a hindrance rather than a help.

• Once in this position, either move the chair and lower the patient’s head and chest carefully to the floor, OR pull the patient’s legs forwards away from the chair until the patient is supine.

Two-person transfer

• Both rescuers face the patient in the chair, and position themselves slightly in front and to the side of the chair

• If readily available place a sliding sheet under the patient’s feet

• Both rescuers get into a half-kneeling position with their innermost knee on the floor and grasp hold of the patient at the back of the pelvis/hip region with their outermost hand and behind the patient’s knee with their innermost hand. An alternative is to use the high-kneeling position which some rescuers may find more comfortable

![Diagram showing two rescuers in a kneeling position pulling the patient backwards]
If the patient is dressed it may be helpful to grab hold of their clothing or belt
On the command from one rescuer, each kneeling rescuer transfers their body weight back towards their heels. This pulls the patient forwards out of the chair into a sitting position on the floor with their back resting against the chair.

NOTE: A pillow placed on the floor to cushion the fall acts as a hindrance rather than a help.

Once the patient is in the sitting position on the floor, one rescuer takes responsibility for supporting their head, whilst the other pulls the patient's legs forwards and away from the chair, or if there is enough room, moves the chair. Alternatively, one rescuer gently pushes the patient sideways towards the other rescuer who lowers them to the floor.

One-person transfer

Wherever possible one rescuer should not undertake this task and they should wait for assistance to arrive. However, it is recognised that in some situations a rescuer may decide to begin resuscitation and will need to transfer the patient to the floor. This is a high risk activity it should only be undertaken in life-threatening or exceptional circumstances.12

- Kneel on the floor to one side of the patient
- Position the patient's arm that is closest to you across their chest
- Push against the patient's thigh which is nearest to you with both your hands to position the patient's hips at the front of the chair
- Place your hand around the patient's furthest hip. Place your other hand on the patient's thigh which is closest to you
• Push / pull the patient down to the floor.

Cardiac arrest on the toilet

If a patient has a cardiac arrest on the toilet it is likely the patient will fall either sideways or forwards. Before transferring the patient onto the floor it is important that the door is kept open. This will ensure that the entrance is not blocked and will enable other rescuers access to the room. If they still remain on the toilet they will need to be transferred to the floor using a similar technique as previously described for a sitting position.

• If the patient is dressed it may be helpful to grab hold of their upper clothing
• Avoid entrapment of the genitalia!