Everyone should receive access to quality healthcare, regardless of mobility limitations. Having the right equipment and trained staff can make a huge difference in providing safe, quality care and improving patient outcomes.

57% percentage of wheelchair users who did not attempt to ascend to a non-height adjustable exam table

4.8% percentage of practices with a mechanical lift available to transfer patients

36.5% percentage of US adults who are obese

57% percentage of women bars who did not attempt to access a non-height adjustable exam table

77% percentage of practice administrators who either employee were trained to lift a patient

44% percentage of administrators who acknowledged that parts of an exam were skipped when a barrier was encountered

72% reduction in exertion when using a height-adjustable chair vs. a fixed-height table

42% higher feeling of safety when using a height-adjustable chair vs. a fixed-height table

4.8% reduction in difficulty when using a height-adjustable chair vs. a fixed-height table

Safer Patients
Better Care

Today, poor patient handling practices put patients and caregivers at risk for injury and lesser quality care.

A recent study by Dr. Guy Fragala and colleagues (sponsored by Midmark), evaluated patient exertion, difficulty and safety for patients requiring various levels of assistance to sit on an exam chair or table.

Patients needing minimal assistance experienced:

- 72% reduction in exertion
- 64% reduction in difficulty
- 42% higher feeling of safety

Patients without a thorough exam risk:

- Poorer quality care
- Greater risk of misdiagnoses
- Missed benefits of early detection

How can we help patients be safer during medical office visits without sacrificing quality care?

As new ambulatory clinics are built and renovations are done to existing clinics, the benefits of height-adjustable examination chairs needs to be recognized, and those making decisions on furnishing need to understand how height-adjustable exam chairs can add to the quality of care provided.

Guy Fragala, PhD, PE, CSP, CSPHP

Sources:
2 Disability statistic: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html
4 Benefits Achieved for Patients Through Application of Height-Adjustable Examination Tables: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316834705_Benefits_Achieved_for_Patients_Through_Application_of_Height-Adjustable_Examination_Tables