

TLR Safe Work Practice - Client Mechanical Lifts**TLR Safe Work Practice - Client Mechanical Lifts**

For TLR, mechanical client lifts include any mechanical device **designed to lift** a client. Safe use of mechanical lifts includes workers appropriately trained on use of mechanical lifts AND:

- preparation and planning to ensure the mechanical lift is operating as intended
- verification that the equipment has been regularly maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendation (including regular load testing)
- verification that the weight of the client does not exceed the lifting capacity of the equipment being used as determined by manufacturer
- proper selection, maintenance, use and application of the sling/harness; in TLR the mechanical lifting technique starts with the application of the sling/harness
- ensuring the room/pathway is clear of any obstacles
- ensuring the client meets the criteria for the selected technique
- ensuring the appropriate number of workers are present
- worker positioning to ensure safe body mechanics
- effective communication:
 - the "1-2-3-command"
 - with everyone involved in the move and throughout the entire moving technique
- stopping the moving task when any of the workers identify any risks that may jeopardize the safety of those involved in the moving task
- a Specialized client mobility risk assessment when considering the use of a lift for transportation when the lift was not designed for that purpose

NOTE: A total lift is intended to achieve lying to sitting, sitting to lying or to lift a client off the floor. A sit/stand lift is **not** intended for this purpose.

TLR mechanical lifting techniques are written for a minimum of two workers and begin with the application of the sling/harness. To ensure the safest move for everyone involved:

- the primary worker manages the client and leads communication with the client and worker(s). They also operate the mechanical lift controls or assign this task appropriately.
- the second worker takes direction from the primary worker. They manage the equipment and ensure it is working as intended.
- in addition, one or more assistants may be required to manage the equipment (e.g., bariatric) and/or attachments (e.g., intravenous) to ensure the safety of the moving task.

Deviation from using two workers with mechanical lifts requires a specialized client mobility risk assessment that is appropriately documented and communicated.

It is important for workers to be supported with taking the time to practice using a lift with their colleagues. Practice provides the opportunity for workers to experience being in a lift and become more familiar with proper operation of the lift as per their training.

Health Canada Alert 109 states a client should never be left unattended while in a mechanical lift and mobile floor lifts are not to be used for transportation.

TLR Safe Work Practice - Use of Slings/Harnesses

Refer to manufacturer's guidelines for appropriate use, care, cleaning, etc., of the sling/harness.

Slings such as universal or hammock are to be removed from under client after use. Slings that are sheet-like, and most often used with overhead track lifts, are designed to be left under the client.

Deviation from this safe work practice requires a specialized assessment. There is a high risk of damage to skin integrity when a sling/harness is left under a client (pressure on thighs, on the sacrum or on the back, wherever client is in contact with a part of the sling - seams, straps, etc.)

source: various vendor websites at the time of printing

Sit/Stand Lift

A sit/stand lift should be considered for a client who is not able to:

- achieve standing and/or
- stand steady for 20 seconds with or without stabilizing

A sit/stand lift is used by a minimum of two workers to raise a client to a standing position. The client's weight must be less than the sit/stand lift's current rated capacity. No manual lifting is used.



Total Lift

A total lift is used by a minimum of two workers in raising the entire weight of the client. The client's weight must be less than the total lift's current rated capacity. No manual lifting is used.

A total lift may be a floor model (portable) or overhead track (fixed or portable). Portable models are not intended to transport a client nor move a client across thresholds. The lift and attachments used must be appropriate for the lift and the task (e.g., for bathing).



ALERT

**Ensure the client's legs remain parallel and hips neutral
unless otherwise specified by a doctor's order.**

*Alert added to Safe Work Practice Jan/22

Refer to the TLR User Manual, Module 4, for more information on TLR standard client moving techniques.

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!