

TLR Transfer Belts

In TLR, the transfer belt is used for cuing, guiding and stabilizing the client. It is not intended to be used as a lifting device; therefore in TLR the transfer belt does not have handles. A transfer belt is used during the TLR client mobility risk assessment - PART B, Testing and Observation as well as in Standing Transfers. A specialized client mobility risk assessment may also require use of a transfer belt.

The transfer belt is appropriate for the client who:

- can bear their entire body weight through their legs
- can take effective steps
- is cooperative
- understands what is expected
- is predictable and reliable in performance and behaviour



The exception of using a transfer belt would be for the client for whom the use of a belt would either compromise their safety and/or the safety of the worker (e.g., the psychiatric client or the abdominal surgery client).

The TLR program recommends that transfer belts are readily available and in adequate repair and assembly. Prior to use, the belt is inspected for fraying of the fabric, cracks or breaks in the buckle, strength when fastened, and slipping due to an incorrectly threaded buckle. Defective belts must be removed from service until repaired or appropriately disposed of.

Procedure

To use a transfer belt appropriately and effectively during Part B - Testing and Observation of the client mobility risk assessment and standing transfers:

- consider the position of the clip on the belt and make any adjustments to length prior to applying
- the client is instructed to put on the transfer belt if they are able OR the worker puts the transfer belt on a client in a manner that respects a client's personal space and does not frighten them (no "lassoing" over the client's head)
- the transfer belt is positioned around the client at or below their waist and there are no twists in the belt. Ensure the belt is placed and secured under a larger abdomen or breasts
- the clip is secured, ensuring it does not pinch the client or the worker
- the belt is adjusted for proper fit. On average, there should be two finger widths of space on each side, between the belt and the client. This will allow for a safe and effective grip of the transfer belt without causing the client or the worker(s) discomfort
- any additional length of belt can be neatly tucked under the belt and out of the way of the move
- the transfer belt is removed right after Part B of the assessment or when the standing transfer is completed

Precautions

- do not use the transfer belt as a safety device or as a client restraint device.
- do not manually lift the client with the transfer belt. If the client indicates that they are experiencing discomfort and/or the belt is sliding up the client's trunk, the worker should determine whether they are lifting the client.
- do not allow the client to grasp the belt during the assessment or transfer.
- follow universal precautions and employer policies and procedures for infection control.

Refer to the TLR User Manual for more information.

Safety Talk Discussion

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