

General Safety Instructions for Patient Lifts

Manuals

- Keep the instructions for use with the lift at all times (or in very close proximity).
- Read operating maintenance instructions in the manual before installing, operating or service the equipment.

Training

- Before using a lift, ensure you have proper training to work with the equipment regardless who “owns” the equipment (OH&S Regulation 31-4). Never attempt to use a lift if you’ve not been properly trained on it.
- Always complete the assessment process of yourself, the environment/equipment and the client before using the lift.

Proper Use

- The lift is for transferring patients only. Do not use the lift for any other purpose.
- Always carry out the daily check list before using the lift.
- Do not attempt to lift more than the weight limit indicated.
- Follow safe lifting procedures in the equipment manual, the TLR program and per agency policy and procedure.
- Use the controls and safety features only according to the rules specified in the manual.
- Never attempt to force a control or button on the lift.
- Do not attempt to maneuver the lift by pushing on the mast, motor shaft, boom or patient.
- Always maneuver the lift with the handles.
- Do not push a loaded lift at speeds which exceed a slow walking pace (e.g., 3 kilometers/hour or 0.8 meters/second).
- Do not push the lift over uneven or rough ground, particularly if loaded.
- Do not attempt to push or pull a loaded lift over a floor obstruction with the casters are unable to ride over easily
- Do not bump the lift down steps, loaded or unloaded.
- Do not park a loaded lift on any sloping surface.
- Do not use an electric lift in a shower.
- Lifts are not intended to be used as a transport device and should not be used to transport a client/patient/resident over any long distance (Health Canada Alert 109).

Slings/accessories

- Use the slings and accessories designed for the lift.
- Never use a damaged, torn or frayed sling.
- Always place the sling around the patient according to the instructions for that sling.

Storage/maintenance

- Do not store the lift in a shower, bath or other area with high humidity.
- Keep all components of the lift clean and dry, and have electrical and mechanical safety checkpoints done as instructed in the manual (re: maintenance).
- Order and replace any precautionary or instruction labels that cannot be easily read.

Safety Talk Discussion

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