

Transferring Lifting Repositioning (TLR) program[®] and Mechanical Lifts

The TLR program provides the following definition of mechanical equipment:

Mechanical equipment designed to take the entire body weight of a client. Such equipment may move on castors, wheels or on a wall/ceiling mounted system. It can be manually or electrically powered (includes hydraulic and pneumatic components).

Under TLR's definition, a tub chair lift would be a mechanical lift.

The tub chair lift is designed to support the entire body weight of a client as they are positioned into, and out of, the bathtub.

TLR's Safe Work Practice - Client Mechanical Lifts includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- TLR mechanical lifting techniques are written for a minimum of two workers
- the moving technique starts with the application of the sling or harness
- the primary worker manages the client, leads communication and either operates the equipment controls or assigns this task appropriately
- the second worker takes direction from the primary worker and manages the equipment to ensure it is working as intended
- assistants may also be required
- deviation from using two workers with mechanical lifts requires a specialized client mobility risk assessment that is appropriately documented and communicated.



Two (2) workers must be present when:

- positioning the client in the tub chair;
- when maneuvering the tub chair, with client securely seated, over the bathtub; and
- when lowering the client into the bathtub

Only one (1) worker is required to perform the bath for the client unless the assessment has determined otherwise.

Once bathing is complete, two (2) workers must be present to raise tub chair out of bathtub and ensure the client is safely removed from the chair.

In addition...

- Ensure the tub chair is in the "park" position during the bathing process.
- **Never** leave the client unattended.
- **Ensure the client's legs remain parallel and hips neutral** unless otherwise specified by a doctor's order.
- Ensure you test the water temperature **BEFORE** lowering the tub chair/client into the water!
- Always maintain eye contact and/or control of the client at all times; communicate; don't let the client slip further into the water than necessary.
- Follow the policies and procedures in place.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Use safe body mechanics at all times and use TLR's *In the Moment Risk Assessment*.

Safety Talk Discussion

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