

Leamington Mennonite Home  
Long Term Care

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

<b>CATEGORY:</b> Resident Care	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Mechanical Lift	<b>SECTION:</b> M <b>POLICY:</b> 1
<b>DATE:</b> September 1996 <b>REVISION DATES:</b> October 2004	<b>Administrator:</b> _____ <b>Director of Care:</b> _____	

**MECHANICAL LIFT**

**POLICY:**

To provide a safe way to transfer a resident who requires a total lift and to prevent back injuries to staff.

**PROCEDURE:**

The mechanical lifting device will be used by staff in the following situations:

- When the Nursing Care Plan and over the bed symbols indicate a need
- In an emergency situation when a resident has fallen and it is difficult to lift them or a resident's condition changes and has not yet been assessed by the Registered Staff and/or adjuvant
- When the Registered Staff, and/or Adjuvant and/or OT/PT have assessed a resident's condition as now needing a mechanical lift.
- If a HCA identifies a resident is at risk, the HCA 's are to report to the Registered Staff, Adjuvant or the DOC, who will then assess resident needs and make appropriate changes for the safety and security of the resident.

**PROCESS:**

1. Check that the mechanical lifting device is stable and in good mechanical working order. Check that all necessary attachments are available (i.e. slings, hooks).
2. Determine the load limit of the mechanical lifting device and be certain that the resident you plan to lift does not exceed that limit.
3. To prepare for lifting, follow the procedures outlined in the transfer and lifting policy.
4. Be sure that the path of the lift is clear.
5. Place the sling under the resident.
6. Place the mechanical lifting device close to the bed and broaden the base.
7. Hook the straps into the lift with the hooks away from the resident to avoid injury.

8. Check that all hooks are secure.
9. Have the resident hold bars if they are able.
10. To operate the lift, use the electric hand control, pause to allow the resident to adjust, turn the lift and lower the resident to the bed or chair.
11. Remove the straps from the mechanical lifting device. Ensure that the resident is safe, comfortable and well positioned.
12. Remove the mechanical lifting device to an appropriate place and leave it with all parts in working order.
13. At the end of your shift, plug in all electrical lifts for charging.

**For the toileting lift:**

- the resident must be assessed to use the toileting lift by the Registered Staff, Adjuvant or Therapist
- the resident must be able to weight bear
- explain the process to the resident
- adjust the strap of the lift behind the resident's back and under their arms
- instruct the resident to hold the handles and position the resident's feet on the platform of the lift

**REMEMBER:**

- Always have 2 staff present when using the mechanical lift device.
- Check all stress points on a sling before you use it and initial the sling list when checked. Report any problems to the Registered Staff or to Laundry Staff.
- If a lift device is defective, stop using it immediately. Remove the lift from service and complete a repair requisition. Indicate the number of the lift and identify the problem encountered. Label the lift "Out of Order".