

Safety Guide

Lifting Hoists

Please ensure users are suitably trained in hoist transfers. For traning or additional information, consult an allied health professional.

General Information: These instructions are general information only and do not take into account your specific circumstance. These instructions are to be used in conjunction with the information provided by your health professional. Do not exceed the Maximum User Weight specified by the manufacturer. If you are unsure on how to use or fit a piece of equipment, please contact your Health Professional.

Safety Information and Precautions

Before Use

- An Allied Healthcare Professional should recommend the appropriate hoist and sling required.
 It is important to use proper manual handling techniques and safety measures when using hoists and slings, and to follow all instructions and guidelines provided by your Allied Health Professional
- Ensure all operators are appropriately trained in the use of the hoist.
- Inspect the hoist for any signs of wear, damage, or malfunction before each use.
- Do not exceed the maximum Safe Working Limit of the hoist.
- Hoists should not be used over long distances or from room to room, a hoist is designed to lift, not as a mobility aid.
- Are the batteries charged?
- Does the lifter require service?
- Are the brakes disengaged (except for floor lift)?
- Does the sling bar hang vertically and move freely?

During Use

- Ensure the hoist is on a stable and level surface.
- Position the hoist correctly to avoid tipping or instability.
- Always use the appropriate sling for the hoist and the individual being lifted.
- Communicate with the individual being lifted to ensure comfort and safety.

 Keep in mind, hoists may be difficult to use on carpet, take extra procautions to avoid tipping.

After Use

- Store the hoist in a safe and dry place.
- Regularly maintain the hoist as per the manufacturer's guidelines.



Operating Information

- 1. Read the instruction manual for the hoist and become familiar with the controls and safety features of the equipment.
- 2. Ensure the battery is charged before use. Two carers are generally recommended when using a hoist, you can check this with your Allied Health Professional.
- 3. Assess the environment and move wheelchairs or commodes close to the hoist, hoists should not be used over long distances or from room to room, a hoist is designed to lift not as a mobility aid. Make sure that the area around the hoist is clear of any obstacles or people and that the path of travel is clear.
- 4. Situate the sling under the user as per your allied health professionals instruction. Never pull the sling quickly from under user when repositioning, this can cause shearing or tearing of the skin.
- 5. Move the hoist in to place. You will need to lower the hoist's boom using the control to attach the sling to the head of the hoist (using the loops or clips depending on which hoist head is being used) and ensure it is secure. Make sure that the head of the hoist does not come in to contact with the user as it lowers into position.
- Hoist brakes should not be used during lifting/ lowering as the hoist needs to be free to move slightly to establish its centre of gravity as it begins to lift/lower.
- 7. Use the hoist controls to raise the user. Make sure that the user is raised smoothly and evenly, be mindful that lifter may move towards the user when the boom starts to lift. Check that the users feet are clear of the hoist and their arms and hands are securely inside the sling. Always check comfort of user as sling starts to lift and throughout transfer.
- 8. Using the handles on the lifter and the power in your legs (try not to twist your body) move the user to the desired location and use the hoist controls to lower the user gently. If positioning someone into a seated position, in a wheelchair or commode, there may be some difficulty getting the user far enough back in the seat. A second person can assist by holding on to the straps on the back of the sling to pull the user further back while the hoist is lowering. The person operating the lifter can also provide

- some gentle pressure to the knees to push the user further back. If this continues to be an issue a tilt in space commode or wheelchair can make these transfers easier as they provide a better angle to transfer however this should always be assessed and discussed by an Allied Health Professional to ensure the safety of the user and the carers.
- 9. Once user is in desired location, detach sling by releasing the hooks or clips.
- 10. Remove the sling as instructed by your Allied Health Care Professional, again never pull the sling quickly from under user when repositioning, this can cause shearing or tearing of the skin.
- 11. After use, clean and maintain the hoist and sling according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not leave or store in wet environments.
- **12. Note:** The specific instructions for using a lifting hoist and sling may vary depending on the type and model of equipment you are using.
- 13. Please ensure you seek the advice of your Allied Health Professional.

Disclaimer: This product safety information sheet is provided for general guidance only and does not replace the manufacturer's user manual or specific safety protocols recommended by the manufacturer. Proper training in the use of the hoist is essential, and all users must complete training with a qualified professional before operating the equipment. Additionally, individuals should seek advice and instructions from a qualified allied health professional, such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist, to ensure the hoist and any associated equipment, such as slings, are suitable for the specific needs of the individual being lifted. Always adhere to local safety regulations and the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance, inspection, and operation. Failure to follow proper procedures and obtain appropriate training may result in injury or damage to the equipment.

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