



Policy Name MECHANICAL LIFTS		Policy Number: 0150
		Effective Date: January 6, 2010
Approved By: Executive Team	Next Date for Review: November, 2019	Date Revised: November 1, 2016
Classification: Delivery of Care to Residents and Families		Page No: Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE:

Mechanical lifts have become valuable pieces of safety equipment. Appropriate and correct use of a mechanical lift will ensure the safety of Residents during transfers from various surfaces, and reduce the potential for injuries to both Residents and Staff. A mechanical lift promotes safety and efficiency when transferring a Resident who is unable to weight bear or participate in the transfer.

APPLICABILITY:

Registered Nurses (RN), Resident Attendants (RA)

DEFINITION:

Mechanical lifts: Equipment used to assist a Resident in transferring from one surface to another by supporting their entire weight.

POLICY:

1. **Two (2) employees must be present when transferring a Resident using the mechanical lift.** In incidents where the Resident’s family/health advocate insists on operating the mechanical lift without the assistance of staff, a Shared Risk Agreement is to be completed. (Refer to policy number 0125)
2. Slings **are not** interchangeable between Residents. Any used slings **must be laundered** prior to use with another Resident.
3. Slings are not interchangeable between lifts; the manufacturer of the sling must match the manufacturer of the lift.
4. A Resident may not be left unattended in the lift.
5. Every mechanical lift used in a health care facility must have an emergency stop and emergency lower. Any staff using the lifts must know where these are, and how they function prior to operating the lift.
6. The Resident’s care plan should indicate the Resident’s required method of transfer. If that method is by mechanical lift, the care plan should also indicate which lift, style of sling and size of sling to use.
7. Inspect the lift prior to use. If there are any questions related to its safety, the lift is to be taken out of service until inspected by Maintenance.
 - Inspect the sling prior to each use:
 - Check the stitching for any signs of fraying;
 - Check for heat damage;
 - Check the body of the sling for rips or holes;
 - Check for signs of exposure to bleach;
 - Check for excessive staining.



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8. On a weekly basis, complete the Sling Inspection Tracking Form. Once the form is filled, send it to the Nursing Lead for filing.
9. The Sling Label should be legible. If the label is not legible, but there are no other issues with the sling, the sling may still be used. The Nursing Lead will arrange for the sling to be labelled with the following information, using an indelible marker:
 - Sling Manufacture;
 - Sling Maximum Weight Capacity;
 - Sling Size
10. If there is a question concerning the safe condition of a sling, it should be removed from use and given to the Clinical Lead for repair or replacement.
11. Laundry Services will have a copy of printed laundry instructions for each manufacture of the slings.
12. Resident's conditions vary, and may require more assistance than is indicated in the care plan. Staff can always use more assistance than indicated, based on their judgement. They may not use less assistance, until a complete re-assessment is completed.
13. RNs and RAs will receive education on the use and operation of mechanical lifts during orientation and every 2 years.

REQUIRED FORMS AND EQUIPEMENT:

- Weekly Sling Inspection Form

REFERENCE:

Alberta Health Services. (2009) CCS-01-06 Continuing Care Sling Integrity Inspections Policy. June 2009

Alberta Health Services – Continuing Care (2008) CC-2-c-050 Safe Use and Maintenance of Mechanical Lifts and Slings. Revised March 10, 2009

ArjoHuntleigh. (2016). Maxi Twin Instructions for Use.

Carewest. (2015). Carewest Passive Floor Mechanical Lift Module.

Liko. (2009) Golvo Instruction Guide. Web.

http://www.liko.com/Documents/en/mobile_lifts/golvo_7000/Golvo%207000%207007%20Instruction%20Guide.pdf [November 1, 2016]