Best Practices For Using Patient Lifts

Victoria Wagman
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Devices and Radiological Health
Patient Lifts

- Designed to lift and transfer patients from one place to another (e.g., from bed to bath, chair to stretcher).

- Not stairway chair lifts or elevators.
Types of Patient Lifts

- Powered patient lifts – Motorized operation using a rechargeable battery
- Manual patient lifts – hydraulic operation
Office of Surveillance and Biometrics

- Primary office in FDA’s Center for Devices responsible for reviewing adverse event reports.

- Found improper use of patient lifts have lead to patient falls resulted in:
  - head traumas
  - fractures
  - deaths
Assuring Patient Safety

- Safe patient handling laws mandating the use of patient lifts to transfer patients have been passed in several states.

- Users of patient lifts must read all instructions provided by the manufacturer in order to safely operate the device.
Patient Lifts Best Practices

Nurses can help mitigate risks by doing the following:

- Receive training and understand how to operate the lift.
- Match the sling to the specific lift and the weight of the patient.
- Make sure the sling is not frayed or stressed at the seams or otherwise damaged.
- Don’t use the sling if it’s damaged
FDA’s Best Practices Continued

- Prior to transferring, make sure that the patient is not restless or agitated.
- Keep the base (legs) of the patient lift in the maximum open position.
- Keep the patient’s arms inside the sling straps.
- Keep all clips, latches, and hanger bars securely fastened during operation.
FDA’s Best Practices Continued

- Prior to transferring, lock the wheels on all wheelchairs, stretchers, beds, or chairs.
- Don’t exceed the weight limits for the lift and sling.
- Follow the instructions for washing and maintaining the sling.
- Create and follow a maintenance safety inspection checklist.
An Overview of the New
Safe Patient Handling and Mobility
Interprofessional National Standards

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Department for Health, Safety, and Wellness
Department for Health, Safety, and Wellness

Promoting the health, safety, and wellness of the nurse and the nursing profession

Empowering nurses to be stronger role models, advocates and educators

For Themselves
And for their Families
Communities
Work Environment
Patients

Healthy Work Environment
HealthyNurse™

Department for Health, Safety, and Wellness
62% reported a disabling MSD is a top concern

56% experienced MSD made worse by job
  – 80% of nurses reported working despite frequent pain
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and safety concerns influence my decision about the kind of nursing work I do.</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>I feel safe from work-related illness in my current working environment.</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>I feel safe from work-related injury in my current working environment.</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and safety concerns influence my decision about my continued practice in the nursing field.</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>My employer effectively informs me about dangerous or unhealthy conditions that I might be exposed to at work.</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>I believe unsafe working conditions interfere with my ability to deliver quality nursing care.</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</table>
2011 Bureau of Labor Statistics

- 387,820 MSD cases (33% of all injuries)

- Occupations with most MSDs:
  - Nursing Assistants
  - Laborers
  - Janitors and Cleaners
  - Truck drivers
  - Registered nurses
  - Stock Clerks

Expectations of National Standards

- Multi-disciplinary, intra-professional, and applicable across a variety of settings
- Realistic and attainable, while raising the bar
- Evidence-based and outcomes focused
- Ready to be incorporated into practices, policies, legislation, and regulation
1. Establish a Culture of Safety
2. Implement and Sustain a SPHM Program
3. Incorporate Ergonomic Design Principles to Provide a Safe Environment of Care
4. Select, Install, and Maintain SPHM Technology
5. Establish a System for Education, Training and Maintaining Competence
6. Integrate Patient Centered Assessment, Care Planning, and Use of SPHM Technology
7. Include SPHM in Reasonable Accommodation and Post Injury Return to Work
8. Establish a Comprehensive Evaluation Program
SPHM National Standards

1. Establish a Culture of Safety

Reprinted with permission from Boston University
2. Implement and Sustain a Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) Program
3. Incorporate Ergonomic Design Principles to Provide a Safe Environment of Care
SPHM National Standards

4. Select, Install, and Maintain Technology
5. Establish a System for Education, Training and Maintaining Competence

IN DAILY PRACTICE ...

Sherrie rolled her eyes. Off the floor again! She hoped that the SPHM training would go quickly, because they were short of staff anyway. Maybe if she signed in and stayed for just a few minutes... (See also Standards 1 and 2.)
SPHM National Standards

6. Integrate Patient Centered SPHM Assessment, Plan of Care and Use of SPHM Technology

Algorithm example from NIOSH’s Safe Patient Handling Training for Schools of Nursing
7. Include SPHM in Reasonable Accommodation and Post Injury Return to Work
SPHM National Standards

8. Establish a Comprehensive Evaluation Program

IN DAILY PRACTICE ...

Stacy, the chief financial officer, was amazed. The Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Committee had turned in a concise and complete business plan for upgrading and expanding the SPHM technology. “They used a new method for calculating the return on investment that demonstrated ranges of direct and indirect costs. They considered impact on worker’s compensation, staff turnover, improved patient safety, and HCAP scores. They even gathered data on 30-day readmissions related to immobility and falls, and made recommendations for better discharge planning. With value-based purchasing, this is an investment I can support.”

(See also Standards 2, 6, and 7.)
For More Information...

www.nursingworld.org
For More Information...

www.anasphm.org


Questions?

👉 Contact Jaime Murphy Dawson - jaime.dawson@ana.org

www.nursingworld.org
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