

Mosby's Nursing Video Skills

Procedural Guideline for Transferring a Patient Using a Hydraulic Lift

1. Perform hand hygiene. Ensure patient privacy.
2. Introduce yourself to the patient. Identify the patient using two identifiers according to agency policy.
3. To use a hydraulic lift to transfer a patient from the bed to a chair, begin by explaining the procedure to the patient.
4. Place a chair near the bed, allowing adequate space to maneuver the lift. Make sure the chair breaks are locked.
5. If needed for safe patient transfer, seek the assistance of a second health care worker.
6. Move the bedside table out of the way. Remove patient glasses if applicable.
7. Raise the bed to the high position, with the mattress flat. Make sure the bed breaks are locked. Remove blankets/sheets covering the patient. Raise the rail on the side of the bed on which the chair sits.
8. Roll the patient onto his or her side, facing the chair side of the bed.
9. Place the hammock or canvas strips under the patient to a form sling. With two canvas pieces, the lower edge (wide piece) fits under the patient's knees, and the upper edge (narrow piece) fits under the patient's shoulders.
10. Lower the bed rail on the chair side of the bed and raise the bed rail on the opposite side.
11. Roll the patient onto his or her opposite side, and pull the hammock (strips) through, keeping them smooth over the surface of the bed.
12. Roll the patient into the supine position onto the canvas hammock.
13. Bring the lift to the bedside or lower the ceiling lift and position it properly.
14. Place the lift's horseshoe bar or wheelbase under your side of the bed (on the side with the chair).
15. Lower the horizontal bar to the level of the sling by following the manufacturer's instructions. Lock the valve if required.
16. Elevate the head of the bed.
17. Attach the hooks on the strap (chain) to the holes in the sling. Short chains/straps hook into the top holes of the sling, middle chains/straps hook into middle holes and longer chains/straps (securing the legs) hook into the bottom holes of the sling.
18. Cross the patient's arms over his or her chest.
19. Explain what will happen to the patient and what they will feel. Ensure patient safety and comfort.
20. Pump the hydraulic handle, using long, slow, even strokes, until the patient has been raised off the bed. If using a ceiling lift, turn on the control device to move the lift.
21. Use the steering handle to pull the lift up from the bed and maneuver the patient into the chair.
22. Roll the base of the lift around the chair.
23. Slowly release the lift and lower the patient into the chair. If you are using a ceiling lift, use the control device to lower the patient into the chair.
24. Lock the wheels on the lift and lower the patient to a sitting position.

25. As soon as the patient is in the chair, remove the straps from the horizontal bar and remove the lift.
26. Check the patient's sitting alignment, and correct it if necessary by making sure of the following:
 - A. The patient's head is erect.
 - B. The vertebrae are in straight alignment.
 - C. The body weight is evenly distributed on the buttocks and thighs.
 - D. The thighs are parallel and in a horizontal plane.
 - E. Both feet are supported on the floor or foot stand.
 - F. The ankles are comfortably flexed.
 - G. A 2.5- to 5-cm (1- to 2-inch) space is maintained between the edge of the seat and the popliteal space, on the posterior surface of the patient's knees.
27. Apply a lap belt if necessary for patient safety.
28. Provide the patient with their personal items and ensure the call light is within reach.
29. Perform hand hygiene.