

LIFT PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What equipment will each unit be granted? Will each unit have its own equipment or is there a central location for the equipment? How is this determined?

Facility decision-makers together with Arjo and Diligent team members completed an acuity-based assessment to determine appropriate equipment needs for each unit. Based on this assessment, units granted specific equipment to meet needs. An ongoing evaluation/re-evaluation is important to continue to meet the specific unit needs.

2. When will we be able to use our equipment?

Inservices were presented for equipment use with a hands-on return demonstration from each employee who will be using the lift equipment. Once employees who will be using the equipment have been inserviced and successful return demonstrations are completed, staff may use the equipment. Our Smooth Moves program went "live" March 1, 2006.

3. What is meant by "go live?"

One of the ways the lift program is evaluated is by the reduction in patient-handling injuries. When the initial assessment is completed to determine appropriate equipment needs, the facility's patient handling injuries are also reviewed to identify a baseline. This baseline is used to compute an appropriate, measurable goal for reduction in injuries. The lift program is put in place primarily to assist the facility in reduction of patient handling injuries. An "official" start date (go live date) is identified to move forward with calculating injuries to determine the success of the program.

4. What if I am injured even though I have used the equipment?

The Smooth Moves/Occupational Health nurse reviews the patient handling injury event report to determine information relevant to assessment of the patient, identification of equipment, and employee actions. The facility determines appropriate follow up action as identified in the lift policy that has been approved by the VUMC leadership.. The Diligent clinical consultant will also review these injuries to determine what happened and what actions will be taken to insure that it does not happen again.

5. What if a patient consistently refuses to let me use the equipment with him/her?

It is critically important that caregivers carefully explain the equipment and the improvement in safety for both the patients and the caregivers through use of the equipment. Occasionally the patients will need additional instructions and information to help with their comfort level. The equipment is designed so that the caregiver is positioned close to the patient to provide hands-on support. We should always explain the equipment/lift process to help assist with the patient's understanding and comfort.

6. What if the equipment malfunctions?
For your convenience, a list of Systematic instructions is located on the VOHC website <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/HRS/wellness/occhealth.htm>
7. What if I need to lift a patient who exceeds the weight limitation of the equipment?
There may be a situation where the patient exceeds the weight limitation of the equipment. In this situation, the lift will need to be performed as the facility has done so in the previous period prior to having the lift equipment. There is a lift called the EZ-lift with use of a sling that can be obtained from Central Supply for bariatric use. The weight limit on this piece is 1200 lbs. All of these situations will need to be carefully documented so that appropriate equipment that meets the needs of this population is reviewed and added to the program.
8. I am a patient care assistant. How will I know what equipment to use with my patient?
Patients will be assessed on admission using the HED documentation system and appropriate lift equipment will be identified and included in the plan of care for this patient.
9. What if I use the equipment that is identified for my patient and find that the patient needs a different piece of equipment? (For example, the patient has been assessed for the Stedy and I find that the patient actually cannot pull him/herself up to a standing position.)
Patients do improve or decline as their conditions dictate. The caregiver should report changes in patient condition to the nurse in charge so that an updated evaluation can be completed and the plan of care can be revised to indicate this update.
10. How do we clean the equipment?
All equipment can be cleaned/disinfected with the same cleaning materials already being used by the facility for other disinfecting. A 100% bleach solution should NOT be used. Your Smooth Moves unit binder and a link on the VOHC website, <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/HRS/wellness/occhealth.htm> provides a review of Infection Control & laundry tips for equipment, gait belts, slide sheets and slings.
11. We have limited storage areas on our units. Where will the equipment be stored?
Each unit has been evaluated to determine where the best location will be for the equipment. Equipment will be stored where it will be most accessible for the user. Some equipment that is currently being used on the unit can be replaced by lift equipment. For example, since the Encore can be used as a stand-on scale, the stand-on scales can be replaced with the Encore.
12. Where do we get the patient-specific slings?
The patient-specific slings will be part of a PAR level for each unit and can be replenished through the facility's central supply system. A supply of the different sizes will be stored in the unit's supply area.
13. What if I decide that I need a piece of equipment that an adjacent floor has but my floor does not have?
Contact your unit manager regarding use of equipment from other floors.

14. I didn't get to a class for equipment skills checkoff. Can I still use the equipment anyway?
Each caregiver must be checked off prior to using the lift equipment. The equipment is very user friendly; however, the class gives complete information about the equipment including safe use of the equipment.
15. I've been told that I need a class for equipment skills checkoff. How do I find out about additional classes?
Smooth Moves Champions have been identified for each unit. The Champions will continue to provide skills checkoff classes for those who have not been checked off as well as new employees.
16. I've been told that we need to change the batteries every 12 hours. But what if we didn't use the equipment during my shift?
The batteries need to be changed on a routine basis so that there is never an issue with having them charged and ready for use. The batteries cannot be "overcharged" so the batteries need to be changed according to the schedule.
17. I have a patient who has had bilateral amputations. I'm concerned that the regular sling will not meet this patient's needs.
There are slings for special needs. See your unit manager to order these slings. For example, there is a sling specifically for the bilateral amputee. It is extremely important for the safety of all that the correct sling be used.
18. I'm afraid that the patient will soil the MaxiSlide.
A pad can be placed on top of the MaxiSlide next to the patient to protect the MaxiSlide from soiling. If it does become soiled, it will need to be properly laundered.
19. If I use my equipment to take a patient to another area (for example, use a MaxiSlide to take the patient to radiology), how will I ensure that I get my equipment back?
Each area has equipment. When using equipment to take patients to another area, recommend that the caregiver leaves the MaxiSlides with the patient and takes an exchange from the department. This provides the least disruption for the patient.
20. Even though I went through the class and was checked off, it has been a while since I used the equipment. Is there some way that I can review the equipment use?
Ask your unit Champion to review the equipment with you. Champions are listed on a link at the VOHC website, <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/HRS/wellness/occhealth.htm>