

This information is provided for our Customers to ensure that they understand more about the products we have provided - both how they benefit the patient and how they can be safely used. If you have any questions about why this product was recommended for you or questions about a therapy regimen, please contact your physician or therapist.

If you have any questions or concerns about the product provided to you, please contact our office.

PATIENT LIFTER: WITH ONE-PIECE SLING

ABOUT PATIENT LIFTERS

The purpose of the patient lifter is to allow a person to be lifted and transferred safely with as little physical effort as possible. Before attempting to lift an ill or injured patient, it is wise to practice with an able-bodied person. Take turns lifting as well as being lifted to learn how the patient will feel in the lifter. When lifting a patient who has never used a lifter before, explain each step in advance, as you go through the lifting procedure.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Never exceed the maximum weight capacity of the lifter or sling. It is wise to leave a substantial safety margin in making this determination since injured, ill or physically challenged individuals may not have actually been weighted recently and may not know their present weight. Of course the weight of heavy casts, etc., must also be taken into account.
- Use the steering handle to move the lifter. Never push or pull on the lifter boom or the patient. This can cause the lifter to tip over.
- The patient should always be centered over the base and facing the caregiver who is operating the lifter.
- Do not lock the caster brake when anyone is in the lifter. This brake is for use during parking & storage only.
- Reduce danger of tipping over, by spreading the adjustable base lifter to its widest position before lifting a patient.
- Safe and successful use of patient lifters begins with proper sling placement and proper positioning of the patient. To avoid the risk of the patient sliding out of the sling, always position the patient so that knees are slightly above the waist. *NOTE: Slippery garments greatly increase the risk of sliding out of the sling.*
- Never move a lifter and patient over shag or deep pile carpet, thresholds, uneven surfaces, or any other obstructions that could block the wheels and cause the lifter to tip over.
- Safety straps or restraints may be advisable for comatose, spastic, agitated, confused or severely handicapped patients. Use care, discretion, and common sense in determining if a severely spastic or handicapped person can be lifted safely. Use restraints only when prescribed by the attending physician.

BASIC OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS - There are two basic types of Patient Lifters currently available, the **Hydraulic Lifter** and the **Mechanical or Crank Style Lifter**. Both of these products perform exactly the same functions. They differ only in the way they are operated to raise and lower the patient.

The Hydraulic Lifter is operated by pumping the hydraulic pump handle to raise the patient and by slowly opening the hydraulic pressure release valve by turning the knob counterclockwise to lower the patient.

The Crank Style Lifter is operated by turning the crank clockwise to raise the patient (on some models, after raising the patient, it is necessary to turn the crank counterclockwise of a turn to securely lock the cranking mechanism). To lower the patient, turn the crank counterclockwise. On some models of the crank style lifter you will hear a clicking sound when the crank is turned. This clicking sound is normal and does not indicate a problem.

Customers who order a Patient Lift may also need and qualify other supplies and products which help with the activities of daily living. An area where safety and ease of use is important is the bathroom. We can provide an array of solutions, from Wheeled Commode/Shower Chairs to specialized hand-held shower heads that allow for greater functionality and independence. Please ask our Representative for more information about these products.

Other supplies and products which you may consider to help with the activities of daily living include:

Hospital-Style Bed	Full or half-length Bed Rails	Protective Bed Pads
Skin protection cushions	Egg Crate Support Surfaces	Ostomy or Urological supplies
Fitted Sheet Sets	Ramp Systems	Wheelchairs

PATIENT LIFTER: WITH ONE-PIECE SLING

Both types of patient lifters may be equipped with either a "U" shaped base or a "C" shaped base. Each of these bases performs its function equally well. Most "U" shaped bases are equipped with an adjusting lever to allow the base to be narrowed for storage or for passing through a narrow doorway. This adjustable base must always be spread and locked in its widest possible position when lifting a patient to maximize stability.

Both the hydraulic and crank style lifters are also available in electrically powered versions on which the lifter is operated by simply pressing the appropriate push button or lever to raise or lower the patient.

GENERAL USE INSTRUCTIONS

Transferring a Patient from Bed - Note: If the patient is in a hospital bed, raising the over-all height of the bed before proceeding will reduce the strain on the caregiver's back. However, when the patient is ready to be lifted, you should lower the height of the bed to reduce the height to which the patient must be lifted to complete the transfer.

- Stand beside the bed and place the bedside rails in the up and locked position. Lift the patient's opposite foot and leg up and across the nearer foot and leg. Carefully roll the patient toward you onto his/her side. Fold the sling as shown.
- Place the folded sling lengthwise on the bed behind the patient's back. Roll the patient back onto his/her back. Pull the leg loops forward and under the thigh as shown. Cross the loops between the legs.
- With a little practice, positioning the sling behind the patient correctly will enable you to have the sling properly centered under the patient and positioned so that, when lifted, the knees will be slightly above the waist. If the patient is in a hospital bed, elevate the foot of the bed to flex patient's knees, and then elevate the head of the bed to place the patient in a semi-sitting position. Next, lower the overall height of the bed to decrease the height to which the patient will have to be raised for transfer from the bed. If the patient is in a home bed, have him/her flex the knees or place a pillow under the knees to support them in a flexed position.



Moving the patient - A patient lifter should not be used as a transport device. If a patient must be transported any significant distance, it is much safer to transfer to a wheelchair for that purpose. To transport a patient for short distances, turn him/her until he/she is facing the lifter mast. Slowly and carefully lower the patient until his/her feet are resting on the base of the lifter with the legs straddling the mast. This lowers the center of gravity, making the lifter easier to push and providing much greater stability. This also reduces the pendulum action and makes the patient feel more secure. Push and pull the lifter ONLY with the steering handles.

- Check to see that the brake(s) on the lifter wheel(s) are NOT locked.
- Roll the lifter into position with the base under the side of the bed and the boom cradle centered over the patient. Lower the boom until the loops on the sling will reach the cradle hooks.
- Attach each loop of the sling to its proper position on the cradle (Remember the leg loops must be crossed between the legs) and raise the patient slowly.
- Repositioning of the patient may be needed to ensure that a safe sitting position (knees slightly above the waist) is attained as the patient is raised. The patient may need assistance when being lifted from a home bed. If this is the case, place your hand behind his/her head and lift until a sitting position is reached.
- Confirm that all loops are securely attached to the cradle. Confirm that the lifter boom is centered over the patient and that the parking brake is NOT locked.
- The bedside rail on the side from which the transfer will take place can now be safely lowered.
- Raise the patient until the buttocks are clear of the mattress, grasp the patient's feet and legs with your hands, lift and turn until he/she is facing you and the lifter mast, and the legs are off the side of the bed.
- Using the steering handles, move the lifter and patient away from the bed.
- When returning a patient to the bed, simply reverse the above procedure.



PATIENT LIFTER: WITH ONE-PIECE SLING

Transferring a Patient to a Wheelchair

- Raise the patient until the buttocks are slightly above the seat of the chair.
- With the patient facing the lifter mast, move the wheelchair into position under the patient. Apply the wheelchair locks. DO NOT lock the lifter brake.
- Lower the patient slowly and carefully with one hand, while simultaneously pushing back gently but firmly on the patient's knees with the other hand. Pressing the patient's back against the back of the chair, as his/her weight descends onto the seat, positions the hips correctly, well back in the seat of the chair. Continue to lower the lifter boom until there is enough slack to easily remove the loops of the sling from the cradle.
- When transferring a patient from a chair simply reverse this procedure.
- The above procedure for transferring a patient to a wheelchair can also be used for transfers to an easy chair or to most other appropriate home or office type chairs.



Removing Sling from Under Patient in a Wheelchair - NOTE: It is not always desirable to remove the sling from beneath the patient in a wheelchair, especially if another transfer is anticipated shortly (i.e. toilet transfer, car transfer, etc.). Leaving the sling allows for faster, easier transfers. The "U" Style sling is, however, designed to allow wheelchair removal if desired.

- If the wheelchair has removable arms, you may want to remove them to simplify this procedure.
- Stand in front of the patient, lean the patient forward & place his/her arms on the knees for stability. Pull the flaps to the side & out from under the patient's thighs.
- While still standing in front of the patient, reach over his/her shoulder and pull the sling up and out from behind the patient's back. Return the patient to an upright sitting position.



Replacing Sling Under Patient in a Wheelchair

- Fold the sling as illustrated for bed transfers.
- While standing in front of the patient, place the folded sling behind the patient's back and press it down until it touches the seat of the wheelchair. Return the patient to an upright position.
- The leg sections of the "U" style sling can now be pulled forward and beneath the patient's thighs by the long loops. The loops are then crossed between the legs as before.

Toilet transfers - Patient Lifters are designed to provide access to most bathrooms and can be used with either the standard bathroom fixture or a bedside commode. It is recommended that the upper loops of the "U" Style sling be left connected to the lifter during toilet use.

- Position the lifter base around the commode. Position the patient over the commode and slowly lower.
- When the patient is securely seated on the commode, unhook the leg flaps of the sling and pull them to the side and back out of the way.
- When toileting is complete, return the leg flaps to their proper position under the thighs, cross the loops between the legs and reconnect them securely to the cradle.
- Lift the patient until the buttocks are clear of the commode.
- Using the steering handles, move the lifter away from the commode and lower the patient for transport.



PATIENT LIFTER: WITH ONE-PIECE SLING

Transfers to and from the floor - There is an occasional need to transfer a patient to and from the floor for various exercise activities, or to lift a patient from the floor who ended up there by accident. In the case of an accident, it is important to FIRST CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE NOT INJURIES that might be aggravated by the lifting procedure.

- To lift a patient from the floor, fold and place the "U" Style sling under the patient, using the same procedure described earlier for lifting the patient from the bed.
- Position the lifter over the patient. Lower the boom so the sling loops will reach the cradle.
- Raise the patient's knees and attach the loops to the cradle. Raise the patient.
- Support the head if assistance is needed.
- To transfer a patient to the floor, simply reverse the above procedure.



Automobile Transfers - For automobile transfers, certain special features may be needed on the lifter. Cars with low ground clearance may require a lifter base with smaller three-inch or four-inch casters instead of the standard five-inch casters.

- As you approach the fully opened door of the car, raise the patient so that his/her head just clears the top of the door opening. Place one hand on the patient's head for protection and guide it under the opening of the car door.
- Raise the lifter as required until the patient's buttocks are slightly above the car seat and move the lifter forward and into the car until the patient is positioned over the car seat with the legs and feet hanging out the door. Be sure to protect the patient's head.
- Grasp the patient's legs with your hands lifting them and rotating him/her to face toward the front of the car.
- Slowly lower the patient onto the car seat until there is enough slack to remove the sling loops from the cradle. The patient should remain seated on the sling.
- The lifter can now be disassembled for loading into the trunk or back seat of the car.

Upon arrival at your destination and *before attempting to transfer the patient out of the car*, always confirm that the sling is still positioned properly. Lift the patient slowly and adjust his/her positioning, if necessary, before moving the lifter and patient away from the car seat. (The knees must be slightly above the waist).

Cleaning the lifter

Follow the manufacturer's instructions in the equipment manual that came with the lift.

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PATIENT LIFTER: WITH U STYLE SLING

ABOUT PATIENT LIFTERS

The purpose of the patient lifter is to allow a person to be lifted and transferred safely with as little physical effort as possible. Before attempting to lift an ill or injured patient, it is wise to practice with an able-bodied person. Take turns lifting as well as being lifted to learn how the patient will feel in the lifter. When lifting a patient who has never used a lifter before, explain each step in advance, as you go through the lifting procedure.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Never exceed the maximum weight capacity of the lifter or sling. It is wise to leave a substantial safety margin in making this determination. Injured, ill or physically challenged individuals may not have actually been weighted recently and may not know their present weight. Of course the weight of heavy casts, etc., must also be taken into account.
- Use the steering handle to move the lifter. Never push or pull on the lifter boom or the patient. This can cause the lifter to tip over.
- The patient should always be centered over the base and facing the caregiver who is operating the lifter.
- Do not lock the caster brake when anyone is in the lifter. This brake is intended for use during parking and storage only.
- To reduce the danger of tipping over, always spread the adjustable base lifter to its widest position before lifting a patient.
- Safe and successful use of patient lifters begins with proper sling placement and proper positioning of the patient. Whether in a reclined or sitting position, the bottom edge of the one-piece sling should be positioned just below the end of the knees. The short section of the chains or straps should always be hooked to the top of the sling and the long section of the bottom. The patient should be centered laterally on the sling.
- To avoid the risk of the patient sliding out of the sling, always adjust the chains or straps and the sling to position the patient so that knees are slightly above the waist. NOTE: Slippery garments greatly increase the risk of sliding out of the sling.
- Never move a lifter and patient over shag or deep pile carpet, thresholds, uneven surfaces, or any other obstructions that could block the wheels and cause the lifter to tip over.
- Safety straps or restraints may be advisable for comatose, spastic agitated or severely handicapped patients. Use care, discretion, and common sense in determining if a severely spastic or handicapped person can be lifted safely. Use restraints only when prescribed by the attending physician.

BASIC OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS - There are two basic types of Patient Lifters currently available, the **Hydraulic Lifter** and the **Mechanical or Crank Style Lifter**. Both of these products perform exactly the same functions. They differ only in the way there are operated to raise and lower the patient.

The **Hydraulic Lifter** is operated by pumping the hydraulic pump handle to raise the patient and by slowly opening the hydraulic pressure release valve by turning the knob counterclockwise to lower the patient.

The **Crank Style Lifter** is operated by turning the crank clockwise to raise the patient (on some models, after raising the patient, it is necessary to turn the crank counterclockwise of a turn to securely lock the cranking mechanism).

Customers who order a Patient Lift may also need and qualify other supplies and products which help with the activities of daily living. An area where safety and ease of use is important is the bathroom. We can provide an array of solutions, from Wheeled Commode/Shower Chairs to specialized hand-held shower heads that allow for greater functionality and independence. Please ask our Representative for more information about these products.

Other supplies and products which you may consider to help with the activities of daily living include:

Hospital-Style Bed	Full or half-length Bed Rails	Protective Bed Pads
Skin protection cushions	Support Surfaces	Ostomy or Urological supplies
Fitted Sheet Sets	Wheelchairs & Ramp Systems	Enteral Nutrition Pumps & Supplies

PATIENT LIFTER: WITH U-STYLE SLING

To lower the patient, turn the crank counterclockwise. On some models of the crank style lifter you will hear a clicking sound when the crank is turned. This clicking sound is normal and does not indicate a problem.

Both of the above types of patient lifters may be equipped with either a "U" shaped base or a "C" shaped base. Each of these bases performs its function equally well. Most "U" shaped bases are equipped with an adjusting lever to allow the base to be narrowed for storage or for passing through a narrow doorway. This adjustable base must always be spread and locked in its widest possible position when lifting a patient to maximize stability.

Both the hydraulic and crank style lifters are also available in electrically powered versions on which the lifter is operated by simply pressing the appropriate push button or lever to raise or lower the patient.

GENERAL USE INSTRUCTIONS - Transferring a Patient from Bed

Note: If the patient is in a hospital bed, raising the over-all height of the bed before proceeding will reduce the strain on the caregiver's back. However, when the patient is ready to be lifted, you should lower the height of the bed to reduce the height to which the patient must be lifted to complete the transfer.

1. Stand beside the bed; place the bedside rails in the up and locked position. Lift the patient's opposite foot and leg up and across the nearer foot and leg. Carefully roll the patient toward you onto his/her side. Place the one-piece seat or sling lengthwise on the bed behind the patient with the lower edge of the sling positioned just below the knees. The half of the sling nearest the patient's back should be folded in an "S" configuration and the opposite half extended flat on the bed. Some slings have a top and bottom; care must be taken to properly orient the sling.
2. Carefully roll the patient onto his/her back. Slip your hands under the near side of the patient and pull the folded part of the sling out flat to a positioned centered beneath the patient. A little practice, with positioning the sling behind the patient initially, will enable you to have the sling properly centered when he/she is rolled back onto his/her back.
3. If the patient is in a hospital bed, elevate the foot of the bed to flex patient's knees, and then elevate the head of the bed to place the patient in a semi-sitting position. Next, lower the overall height of the bed to decrease the height to which the patient will have to be raised for transfer from the bed. If the patient is in a home bed, have him/her flex the knees or place a pillow under the knees to support them in a flexed position.
4. Check to see that the brake(s) on the lifter wheel(s) are NOT locked. Roll the lifter into position with the base under the side of the bed and the boom cradle centered over the patient. Lower the boom until the chains or straps will reach the sling. Attach the appropriate chain links, hooks or "D" rings to the spreader bar or cradle. Insert the hooks on the ends of shorter chains or straps into the holes in the top of the sling. Insert the hooks on the ends of longer chains or straps into the holes in bottom of the sling. The hooks should always be inserted from the inside so the ends of the hooks are away from the patient. Confirm that all hooks, links, and/or "D" rings are securely attached to the swivel bar or cradle. Confirm that the lifter boom is centered over the patient and that the parking brake is NOT locked.
5. Operate the lifter to raise the patient. The sling will automatically bring the patient to a sitting position. The bedside rail on the side from which the transfer will take place can now be safely lowered. The patient may need assistance when being lifted from a home bed. If this is the case, place your hand behind his/her head and lift until a sitting position is reached. When the patient has been lifted until the buttocks are clear of the mattress, grasp the patient's feet and legs with your hands, lift and turn until he/she is facing you and the lifter mast, and the legs are off the side of the bed. Using the steering handles, move the lifter and patient away from the bed.



When returning a patient to the bed, simply reverse the above procedure.

A patient lifter should not be used as a transport device. If a patient must be transported any significant distance, it is much safer to transfer to a wheelchair for that purpose. To transport a patient for short distances, turn him/her until he/she is facing the lifter mast. Slowly and carefully lower the patient until his/her feet are resting on the base of the lifter with the legs straddling the mast. This lowers the center of gravity, making the lifter easier to push and providing much greater stability. This also reduces the pendulum action and makes the patient feel more secure. Push and pull the lifter ONLY with the steering handles.

PATIENT LIFTER: WITH U-STYLE SLING

Transferring a Patient to a Wheelchair - The procedure for transferring a patient to a wheelchair can also be used for transfers to an easy chair or to other appropriate home or office type chairs. When transferring a patient from a chair simply reverse this procedure.

1. Raise the patient until the buttocks are slightly above the seat of the chair. With the patient facing the lifter mast, move the wheelchair into position under the patient. Apply the wheelchair locks. DO NOT lock the lifter brake.
2. Lower the patient slowly & carefully with one hand, while simultaneously pushing back gently but firmly on the patient's knees with the other hand. Pressing the patient's back against the back of the chair, as his/her weight descends onto the seat, positions the hips correctly, well back in the seat of the chair. Continue to lower the lifter boom until there is enough slack to easily remove the hooks from the sling. NOTE: It is frequently not necessary or desirable to remove the sling from beneath the patient in a wheelchair.
3. Leaving the sling in place allows transfers from the chair to be performed much more quickly & simply. The standard one-piece sling does not lend itself to easy wheelchair removal. If removal is required, other special purpose slings should be considered.



Toilet transfers - Patient Lifters are designed to provide access to most bathrooms & can be used with either the standard bathroom fixture or a bedside commode. Most one-piece seats & slings are available with optional commode opening, which will be necessary for toileting purposes. It is recommended that the sling be left connected to the lifter during toilet use to provide security & support for the patient. When toileting is completed, CONFIRM THAT THE BOTTOM EDGE OF THE SLING IS STILL BELOW THE KNEES. Then lift the patient clear of the commode before attempting to move the lifter.

Transfers to and from the floor - There is an occasional need to transfer a patient to & from the floor for various exercise activities, or to lift a patient from the floor who ended up there by accident. In the case of an accident, it is important to FIRST CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE NOT INJURIES that might be aggravated by the lifting procedure.

1. To lift a patient from the floor, place the one-piece sling under the patient using the same procedure described earlier for lifting the patient from the bed.
2. Position the lifter over the patient. Lower the boom so the chains or straps reach the holes of the sling.
3. Raise the patient's knees & hooks to the sling. Raise the patient by operating the lifter. Support the head if assistance is needed.
4. To transfer a patient to the floor, simply reverse the above procedure.

Automobile Transfers - For automobile transfers, a special-purpose spreader bar or cradle & possibly a special purpose sling maybe recommended. These components raise the buttocks, reducing the distance between the top of the lifter boom & the buttocks for greater clearance when entering the car door. Cars with low ground clearance may require a lifter base with smaller three-inch or four-inch casters instead of the standard five-inch casters.

1. As you approach the fully opened door of the car, raise the patient so that his/her head just clears the top of the door opening. Place one hand on the patient's head for protection & guide it under the opening of the car door.
2. Raise the lifter as required until the patient's buttocks are slightly above the car seat & move the lifter forward & into the car until the patient is positioned over the car seat with the legs & feet hanging out the door. Be sure to protect the patient's head.
3. Grasp the patient's legs with your hands lifting them & rotating him/her to face toward the front of the car.
4. Slowly lower the patient onto the car seat until there is enough slack to remove the sling loops from the cradle. The patient should remain seated on the sling.
5. The lifter can now be disassembled for loading into the trunk or back seat of the car.

Upon arrival at your destination & before attempting to transfer the patient out of the car, always confirm that the sling is still positioned properly with the bottom edge just behind the knees.

Cleaning the lifter - Follow the manufacturer's instructions in the equipment manual that came with the lift.