

Administrator Alert

*Policy updates and rule clarifications for Assisted Living,
Residential Care and Nursing Facilities*

Office of Licensing and Quality of Care — Oregon Department of Human Services

June 10, 2008

Mechanical lifts

Residents living in Residential Care and Assisted Living Facilities often have transfer needs where a lift may be necessary.

A lift is a device used to assist the caregiver(s) in transferring a resident from bed to chair and back when the resident is unable to assist with the transfer. A seat or sling is placed under the resident and he/she is hydraulically or electronically lifted.

A lift may be necessary if the transfer between bed and a chair, wheelchair, or commode requires the assistance of more than one person and, if without the use of a lift, the resident would be bed confined.

Evaluation/Assessment/Service Plan

Each resident who is required to be mechanically lifted and/or transferred for medical or physical reasons should have a documented evaluation by a trained and experienced facility staff person and/or assessment by the facility licensed nurse.

If the facility has determined a mechanical lift will not injure the resident, the service plan must reflect directives for its use. The service plan includes the type of mechanical lift to be used for each lift/transfer and instructions for the individualized techniques to be used.

The number of staff required to lift a resident would depend on the manufacturer's recommendations for use, evaluation and/or assessment (special care must be taken with residents who cannot cooperate with being

Administrator Alert - continued

lifted-such as comatose, spastic, agitated or otherwise severely handicapped), specific resident's plan of care and facility's policy/procedure for mechanical lift usage.

Training requirements

Correct utilization of slings and adherence to safety procedures are paramount to safe handling of residents. Only trained and qualified staff should transfer a resident with a mechanical lift. To ensure safe operation, the facility must provide documented training to all staff intending to operate the lift. Facility staff must have access to the lift's manufacturer's instructions. The facility must ensure that staff operating the lift is able to understand the warnings, cautions and instructions provided by the manufacturer. A copy of the lift manual should be available to staff for referral.

Action required:

Facilities should review their policies and procedures regarding mechanical lifts and revise according to current standards. Procedures may be reviewed at the time of survey to determine if this issue has been addressed.

Reference:

OAR 411-054-0025 (1), Tag 150 – Facility Administration

OAR 411-054-0030 (1) (e) (A), Tag 243 – Resident Services

OAR 411-054-0070 (1), Tag 360 – Staffing

