

## **Training Guide for Hoyer Lift Usage and Care**

### **Introduction:**

To safely and effectively use a Hoyer lift for transfers, it's crucial to have proper training. Below is a breakdown of key points to ensure safe and efficient transfers for residents.

### **1. Safety First: Two-Person Assist**

- **Requirement:**  
Hoyer lifts require a two-person assist for transfers.
- **Reasoning:**  
This ensures better control, stability, and resident safety during the transfer process.
- **Training:**  
Both caregivers should be properly trained in the use of the Hoyer lift and slings.

### **2. Hoyer Lift Transfer Steps (General Guide)**

1. **Explain the Process:**  
Always clearly explain the steps of the transfer to the resident.
2. **Position the Sling:**  
Place the sling behind the resident, ensuring proper placement and support.
3. **Attach the Sling:**  
Hook the sling loops to the lift cradle.
4. **Lift and Transfer:**  
Slowly raise the resident and position them in the desired location.
5. **Lower the Patient:**  
Gently lower the resident into the new location.
6. **Remove the Sling:**  
Once the resident is secured, remove the sling.

### **3. Important Considerations**

- **Resident Assessment:**  
Always assess the resident's condition and needs before using a Hoyer lift.
- **Communication:**  
Maintain clear communication with the resident throughout the transfer process.

- **Equipment Maintenance:**  
Ensure the Hoyer lift and slings are in good working order and properly maintained.

#### 4. Cleaning a Hoyer Lift Sling

To ensure longevity and proper hygiene, follow these steps when cleaning a Hoyer lift sling:

1. **Washing:**
  - Machine wash in warm water (not exceeding 185°F).
  - Use mild detergent.
  - Do **not** use bleach or dry cleaning.
2. **Drying:**
  - Tumble dry on a low setting or air dry.
  - Do **not** iron.
3. **General Tips:**
  - **Check for Damage:** Inspect the sling before each use for any signs of damage.
  - **Disposal:** Discard any damaged slings immediately.
  - **Spot Cleaning:** Clean minor stains with mild detergent and water.

#### 5. Battery Maintenance for the Hoyer Lift

- **Safety First:**  
A charged Hoyer lift is essential for smooth and safe resident transfers.
- **Preventing Malfunctions:**  
A low battery can cause the lift to malfunction, leading to jerky movements or sudden stops, which can cause accidents.
- **Backup Plans:**  
Always have a backup plan for manual transfer procedures if there are issues with the lift.
- **Regular Maintenance:**  
Regularly check the battery level and ensure the lift is charged according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Staff Training:**  
Ensure all staff are trained on charging procedures and backup plans.

#### 6. Shift Responsibilities

##### All Shifts:

- Ensure that all Hoyer lifts are plugged in and charging at the end of your shift.
- Double-check charging stations are operational.

### **Third Shift:**

- At the start of your shift, verify that all lifts are plugged in and charging.
- Confirm there is sufficient charge on the lifts before use.

## **7. Equipment Care and Handling**

- **Do Not Share Lifts:**  
Do not share Hoyer lifts unless the residents are from the same hospice company to prevent cross-contamination.
- **Slings:**  
Slings should not be shared. Each resident should have their own sling for hygiene and safety.
- **Charger Handling:**  
Always walk to the wall to unplug the charger to prevent damage.

## **8. Troubleshooting Equipment Issues**

- If a Hoyer lift is malfunctioning or a sling is needed, immediately inform the nurse.
- **For Hospice Care:** Hospice will typically arrange for the necessary equipment quickly.
- **Report Issues:** Always speak up if any equipment needs attention to ensure safe resident care.

## **Training on Safe Hoyer Lift Transfers and Resident Rights**

**Introduction:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of residents is a cornerstone of care in facilities like nursing homes, assisted living centers, and home care environments. Safe hoyer lift transfers are a crucial part of providing residents with the appropriate care they deserve. As part of resident rights, it's important to understand how these lifts, and the general environment around them, are tied to broader concepts of safety and dignity.

**Key Resident Rights:** Residents have fundamental rights that are protected by law. These include:

1. **Right to a Safe and Clean-Living Environment:**
  - A safe living environment includes ensuring the physical space around the resident is hazard-free.
  - It extends beyond just keeping floors free of obstacles and spills—it also includes ensuring the equipment used for transfers, such as hoyer lifts, is in good working condition.
  - Regular inspections, maintenance, and ensuring that staff is properly trained in equipment use are essential.

**2. Right to Be Free From Abuse:**

- Residents are entitled to be free from any form of abuse, whether it is physical, verbal, mental, or emotional.
- Safe hoyer lift transfers contribute to this right, as improper or unsafe use of the lift could lead to physical harm, anxiety, or emotional distress.
- Training staff in proper hoyer lift use helps minimize these risks and ensures residents are treated with respect and dignity.

**3. Right to Adequate and Appropriate Medical Treatment and Care:**

- This includes both the quantity and quality of care provided.
- It applies not just to medical care like medication and doctor visits, but also to assistance with daily activities, including safe transfers using hoyer lifts.
- Proper training in lift operation, understanding how to assess when lifts are needed, and knowing when to call for assistance are vital aspects of providing adequate care.

**Why These Rights Are Broad:** Although these rights seem narrow or specific, they actually cover a wide range of concerns:

- **Safe Environment:** A safe environment isn't just about keeping floors free of spills. It includes making sure that any equipment used—like hoyer lifts—doesn't present a risk. If lifts aren't inspected regularly or are in poor condition, they can create safety hazards. This is why regular checks and maintenance are essential to fulfilling the resident's right to a safe environment.
- **Quality of Care:** Adequate and appropriate care doesn't just mean providing enough assistance or medical treatment. It means that care is provided in a manner that respects the resident's dignity and meets their physical and emotional needs. Safe hoyer lift transfers can significantly impact the comfort and well-being of residents. When lifts are used improperly or untrained staff handle the transfers, it can lead to physical harm or emotional distress.
- **Broader Implications:** The rights of residents extend beyond what is explicitly mentioned in laws. These rights include the expectation that residents will be treated with respect, that their privacy is maintained, and that they are not subjected to unnecessary risks or mistreatment. Safe transfers, with well-maintained equipment and knowledgeable staff, align with these broader expectations.

**The Importance of Proper Training in Safe Hoyer Lift Transfers:**

**1. Equipment Knowledge and Inspections:**

- Staff should be trained to properly inspect hoyer lifts before use. This includes checking for any mechanical issues, wear and tear, and ensuring that all parts are functioning correctly.
- Regular maintenance and ensuring that lifts are cleaned and sterilized between uses are essential steps.

**2. Safe Transfer Techniques:**

- Staff should be trained on how to properly position the lift, ensure the safety of the resident during the transfer, and minimize any risk of injury.
- They should also understand how to communicate with the resident during the transfer process, reassuring them and ensuring that they are comfortable.

**3. Responding to Emergencies:**

- Staff should know what to do in the event of an emergency, such as a resident slipping or falling during the transfer, or if the lift malfunctioned. Knowing when and how to seek immediate help is a critical part of providing safe care.

**4. Resident Comfort and Dignity:**

- In addition to the physical aspects of safe transfers, staff should understand the importance of respecting the residents' dignity. This includes explaining what will happen during the transfer, maintaining privacy, and avoiding unnecessary discomfort or distress.

**Conclusion:** Safe hoist lift transfers are not just about the mechanical process—they are intrinsically tied to the broader concept of resident rights. A safe environment, freedom from abuse, and the right to adequate care are all interwoven into this practice. Proper training and regular equipment checks ensure that these rights are respected and that residents receive the safe, dignified care they are entitled to. By following these guidelines and regularly assessing both staff training and equipment condition, we can uphold these fundamental rights and provide a higher standard of care.

### **"Betrayed Care: The Tragic Case of Mr. Henderson"**

It was a crisp fall afternoon when tragedy struck at Green Valley Nursing Home, a facility known for its excellent care. The following story highlights the devastating consequences of neglect, underscoring the importance of proper staff training and attention to detail in the care of residents.

**Incident Overview:**

• **Mr. Henderson's Background:**

- An 83-year-old retired teacher residing at Green Valley Nursing Home.
- Suffering from advanced stage dementia and mobility issues.

• **Caregiver Negligence:**

- Sarah Mitchell, an STNA with two years of experience, failed to check on Mr. Henderson during her shift.
- Despite multiple calls for help, Sarah did not respond in a timely manner.

• **Mr. Henderson's Condition:**

- Found unresponsive, severely dehydrated, and with painful pressure sores after hours of neglect.
- Rushed to the hospital but passed away due to complications from dehydration and neglect.

## **Investigation and Consequences:**

- **Investigation Findings:**
  - Multiple violations were found, including inadequate supervision and failure to meet basic care standards.
- **Actions Taken:**
  - Green Valley Nursing Home was fined \$15,000.
  - Staff received additional training and supervision.
- **Sarah Mitchell's Consequences:**
  - Fired and had her nursing license revoked.
- **Legal Action:**
  - The Henderson family filed a lawsuit, and the nursing home was ordered to pay \$500,000 in damages.

## **Industry-Wide Impact:**

- **Statewide Changes:**

The incident led to stricter regulations and oversight of nursing homes in Ohio.
- **Nursing Home Reforms:**

This tragedy prompted a reevaluation of the nursing home industry's practices, focusing on the critical importance of properly trained staff.

## **Conclusion**

The story of Mr. Henderson serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences of neglect and the essential role of proper care and training in elder care facilities. By adhering to the guidelines in this training, we can ensure the safety, comfort, and dignity of all residents.