



# PATIENT LIFTER: HYDRAULIC

The purpose of the patient lifter is to enable one person to lift and move a patient safely with as little physical effort as possible.

This type of patient lifter facilitates bed transfers, wheelchair transfers, toilet transfers, automobile and floor transfers. The device also aids in bath transfers and swimming pool transfers with appropriate accessory equipment.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

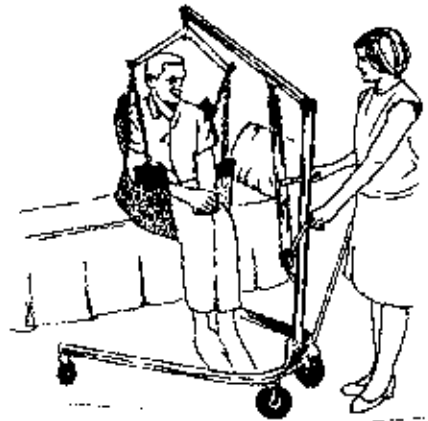
### *Lifting a patient from bed*

- Step 1.** Stand beside the bed, place the bed side rails in the up and locked position, and lift the patient's opposite foot and leg up and across the nearer foot and leg.
- Step 2.** Carefully roll the patient toward you onto his/her side.
- Step 3.** Place the 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 then be folded in an "S" or accordion configuration, and the opposite half extended flat on the bed.



- Step 4.** Carefully roll the patient onto his/her back. Slip your hands under the patient and pull the folded part of the sling out flat to a position centered under the patient. A little practice, initially, with positioning the sling behind the patient, will enable you to have the sling properly centered when the patient is rolled back onto his back.
- Step 5.** If the patient is in a hospital bed, it should now be adjusted to the Fowler position. Elevate the foot of the bed to flex the patient's knees, then elevate the head of the bed. If the patient is in a home bed, either have him/her flex the knees or place a pillow under the knees to support them in a flexed position.

- Step 6.** Bring the lifter into position with the base under the side of the bed. Then lower the lift arm over the patient by opening the hydraulic release valve and pressing down on the lift arm.
- Step 7. Insert the open hooks of the shorter portion of the chains into the holes in the back (top). Insert the open hooks of the longer part of the chains into the holes in the seat (bottom).** The hooks should be inserted all the way into the holes in the sling **from the inside** so the ends of the hooks are **AWAY** from the patient.
- Step 8.** Insert the closed "S" hooks of the chains into the ends of the swivel bar. Check to see that the hooks are seated fully into the swivel bar.
- Step 9.** Close the hydraulic release valve and pump the hydraulic handle. The sling will automatically lift the patient into a sitting position. The bed side rail, on the side from which the transfer will take place, can now be safely lowered.



The patient may need your assistance when lifting him/her from a home bed. If this is the case, place your hand behind his/her head and lift until he/she reaches a sitting position.

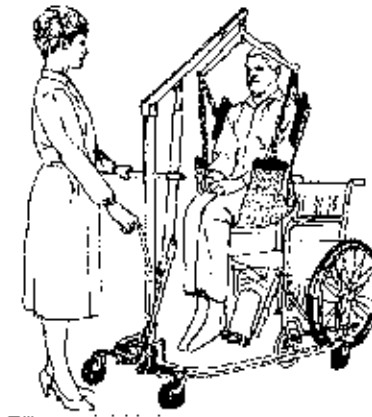
- Step 10.** When the patient has been lifted until the buttocks are clear of the bed, grasp the patient's legs and turn until he/she is facing the lifter mast and his/her legs are off the side of the bed. Move the lifter away from the bed. When returning a patient to the bed, simply reverse this procedure.

If the patient is to be transported in the lifter, turn him/her until he/she is facing the mast as just described. Slowly and carefully open the hydraulic release valve, which lowers the patient until his/her feet rest on or over the base of the lifter and straddle the mast. This lowers the center of gravity, making the lifter easier to push and providing greater stability. It also reduces pendulum action and makes the patient feel more secure. Push the lifter with the steering handles.

**NOTE: It is not advisable to use the caster friction locks when the patient is in the lifter.** These locks are intended for use during parking, storage or assembly only. Patients should not be in the lifter during their use.

## TRANSFERRING A PATIENT TO A WHEELCHAIR

- Step 1.** Raise the patient by pumping the hydraulic handle until the buttocks are above the seat height of the chair.
- Step 2.** With the patient's back toward the open end of the base, move the wheelchair into position under the patient. Apply the wheelchair locks.



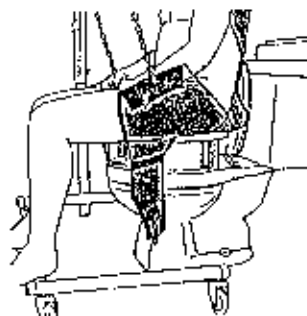
- Step 3.** Lower the lift arm by opening the hydraulic release valve with your left hand. For proper positioning of the patient in the chair, push back gently but firmly on the patient's knees with your right hand while simultaneously lowering him/her into the chair. This positions the hips well back in the seat of the chair. Continue to lower the lift arm so there will be enough slack in the chains to remove the hooks.

**NOTE:** It is not usually necessary, or desirable to remove the sling from beneath the patient. A special purpose two-piece sling and back is available for most lifters that can be removed after the patient is placed in the chair, but this type of seat is **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL USE.**

The procedure for transferring a patient to a wheelchair can also be used for transfers to an easy chair or almost any other appropriate home or office type chair.

## TOILET TRANSFERS

Patient Lifters are designed to provide access to most bathrooms and can be used with either the standard commode or a bedside commode. Most seats and slings are available with an optional commode opening for this purpose. It is recommended that the sling be left connected during toilet use to provide security and support for the patient. When toileting is completed, **CONFIRM THAT THE BOTTOM EDGE OF THE SLING IS JUST BELOW THE KNEES.** Then lift the patient completely 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 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 no injuries that might be aggravated by the lifting procedure.

To lift a patient from the floor, place the sling under the patient using the same procedure and the same "S" or accordion fold described earlier for lifting the patient from the bed. Position the lifter over the patient. Lower the lifter arm and swivel bar so the chain hooks reach the holes of the sling. Raise the patient's knees and attach the sling. Lift the patient by pumping the hydraulic handle. Support the head if assistance is needed.

To transfer a patient to the floor, simply reverse this procedure.

## **AUTOMOBILE TRANSFERS**

For automobile transfers, a straight swivel bar rather than the standard one is recommended. This raises the buttocks and positions the patient's head above the end of the lift arm, reducing the distance between the top of the lift arm and the buttocks. For these particular transfers, most users find the special purpose two piece seat and back to be more functional because the chains can be shortened by dropping links. The end of the lifter boom should be approximately level with the patient's chin.

As you approach the open door of the car, raise the patient so that the patient's head just clears the top of the door opening. Place one hand on the patient's head for protection and guide it underneath the opening of the car door.

Turn the patient to face the front of the car as you lower him/her into the seat. Continue to lower the lift arm to provide enough slack in the chains. Remove the hooks from the sling.

The lifter can now be disassembled for loading into the trunk of the car. Remove the swivel bar from the lift arm. Open the hydraulic release valve and push down on the end of the lift arm to bring it to its lowest position. Remove the mast and lift arm section from the socket on the base. The base should be placed upside-down in the trunk of the car first, followed by the mast and lift arm section and the swivel bar. This normally leaves ample space for placing the wheelchair on top of the lifter.

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

## **IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- **Successful use of patient lifters begins with proper sling placement.**

Whether in a supine or sitting position, the bottom edge of the sling should be placed just below the bend of the knee. The short section of the chain should always be hooked to the top of the sling and the long section of the chain to the bottom. The patient should be centered laterally on the sling.

• **Use care, discretion and common sense in determining if a severely spastic or handicapped person can be lifted safely.**

• **Do NOT exceed weight limits of patient lifters or slings.** It is always wise to leave a substantial safety margin in making this determination. Injured, ill or handicapped individuals may not have been actually weighed for long periods of time, and may not know their actual weight. Of course, the weight of heavy casts, etc., must also be considered.