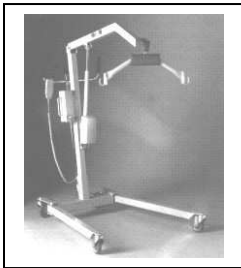


Hoisting Equipment

Hoists are designed to take the partial or full weight of a person, to allow easier lifting and transferring from one surface to another. If used correctly, a hoist greatly reduces the risk of injury through a fall and protects carers from back strain. The fact sheet provides basic information on hoists however, LifeTec Queensland strongly advises that your choice of a hoist should be made in consultation with your therapist.



MOBILE HOISTS

Mobile hoists may use a hydraulic or electric mechanism to lift the user so that they can be transferred between two close surfaces. They are not designed to transfer users between rooms.

Mobile hoists may use a hydraulic or electric mechanism to lift the user so that they can be transferred between two close surfaces. They are not designed to transfer a person between rooms. Many mobile hoists now use an electric mechanism incorporating a hand-held button control to raise and lower the boom. Hydraulic hoists requires a pumping action, but can be difficult if the operator has weak or injured upper limbs or the person being lifted is very heavy.

There are 4 major parts of a standard mobile hoist: spreader bar, mast, boom and base.

Spreader bar – is used to attach sling to hoist and assist with positioning.

Mast – vertical support and incorporates lifting function, controls, push handles and batteries.

Boom – extends from the mast and its shape and length will influence path of spreader bar leg room and degree of swing.

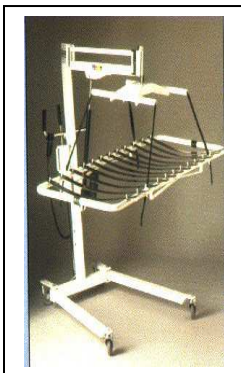
Base – usually on castors with brakes at the rear of the hoist.



Some mobile hoists have the option of a standard spreader bar, a pivot frame or a stretcher attachment. A pivot frame is suitable if a carer needs to change the person's position during a lift (eg. Semi-reclined to upright).

When selecting a mobile hoist the following points should be considered:

- Is there adequate space to turn and manoeuvre the hoist in the area in which it is to be used?
- Can the carer comfortably push the hoist?
- Is the lifting range of the boom adequate to lift from the floor and up to a high bed, or chair, or a commode?

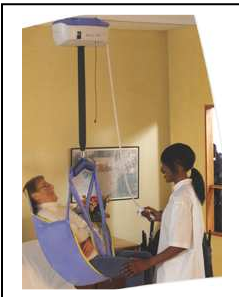


- Can the spreader bar rotate with the boom in the elevated position and is there sufficient space around the mast and boom to turn the user while supported in the sling?



STAND UP HOISTS

Stand up hoists are designed to lift a user into a supported standing posture. They work by placing the user's feet on a platform with their knees against a knee support. Stand up hoists can be used to transfer a person from chair to chair, from one room to another, or to allow the carer to attend to toileting and dressing needs. Stand up hoists are faster to lift and transfer people than mobile hoists, but are only suitable for people who can take weight through their legs. Some stand up hoists have shower to toilet seat attachments.



CEILING/OVERHEAD TRACK HOISTS

Ceiling or overhead track hoists are designed to lift a person from the floor, chair or bed. There are two different types – fixed or portable systems. In fixed systems, motor is permanently attached to the tracking.

In portable systems, motor can be removed and used on another tracking located elsewhere. Tracking can be permanently mounted onto ceiling or non permanent via posts or gantry system. It is advised to seek building/structural advice before mounting tracking onto ceiling.



MULTI PURPOSE HOISTS:

Multi purpose hoists such as Kerry Lift and Liko Golvo hoist combines the role of the different hoists onto one piece of equipment. These hoists can function as a mobile hoist; stand up hoist and walking tutor.

SPECIAL PURPOSE HOISTS:

Other special purpose hoists are also available and include vehicle occupant hoists, spa/pool hoists and bath hoists. Refer to factsheets on Bath and Shower Equipment and Transporting People with Special Needs for further information.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Telephone, fax or e-mail your enquiry to obtain further information from one of the therapists about products. Alternatively, you can make an appointment to trial the equipment at our display centres or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec Queensland for further details.

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