

Transfer Equipment

There are several types of transfer aids designed for people with disabilities to help transfer themselves from one position to another. There is also a diverse range of lifting and handling aids for carers to assist people with transfers.



STANDING TRANSFERS

If you are having difficulty standing up from a chair, consider the type of chair you are using. Chairs with firm high seats and solid armrests are easier to stand up from. Consider chairs with height adjustable legs as these can be adjusted to the correct height. Alternatively you can use chair raisers or a raised platform to increase the height of your chair.

Electric lift and recline chairs may be an option for some clients. These chairs use an Electric motor to assist the user up into a standing position.



SEATED TRANSFERS

Transfer boards can be used to bridge the gap between two seat surfaces. The user slides along the board or is assisted to do so by a carer. A variety of transfer boards Are available including:

- Plywood boards with tapered edges to assist in getting the edge of the board under the user.
- Boards with hand notches or holes to assist the user in pulling themselves along it.
- Roll boards or boards with sliding disc which aim to reduce the friction encountered in sliding. These can be difficult to use when sliding upwards as the user has to work against the forces of gravity.
- Curved and “boomerang” boards designed to assist in sliding around obstacles such as the door pillar in a car.



VEHICLE TRANSFERS

Swivel turn tables have been designed primarily for getting in/out of motor vehicles. It is placed on the seat so that the person sits on the turntable then turns and pivots to face forward. These can be useful for people having trouble bending and manoeuvring into a low car seat and for those with weak or injured backs who have trouble twisting. Be aware that the turntable remains in place during the drive and can be uncomfortable on long journeys.

Another option is to replace the existing car seat with a car swivel seat, which will pivot through 90 degrees then slide part way out through the door.

Alternatively, for individuals requiring more support, a vehicle mounted occupant hoist can take the full weight of the person to lift and pivot them into the car.



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TRANSFER AIDS TO HELP CARERS

Standing transfer turntables are designed for a carer to assist a person to pivot when doing a standing transfer from one seat to another.

The person stands up, then pivots through 90-180 degrees, then sits down on the other seat.

Standing turntables are appropriate when a person is able to reliably stand and take their weight but cannot step or pivot their feet.



The carer assists by turning the person controlling them from the hips and trunk. It is important to ensure that the turntable does not spin so freely that the carer may lose control of the person they are transferring. These devices are not suitable for all clients and should be carefully considered and trialed before selected.

Lift belts and bands are designed only to assist with lifting, so it is essential that users of these devices demonstrate competent use of safe lifting techniques and have no history of back injury or severe back pain.



Lift belts usually include strong handles to improve grip for one or two carers to lift someone and can be useful to assist larger people, where it may be difficult to achieve a good hold on the person.

A slide sheet is a sheet made from slippery synthetic fabric, which is positioned beneath the client or bed sheet.



The slide sheet decreases the friction between the client and the bed and allows the carer to easily slide the person up/down/across the bed.

A nylon slide tube can be used on the bed to turn the user to their backs or side, which can assist with pressure relief, repositioning to sleep, or changing wound dressings. It can also be used to move the user up the bed.

Another type of turning sheet is made from strong nylon material and joined end to end to form a continuous roll. It features handles that can be used to move a person up or across the bed.

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 centre or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec for further details.

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