



NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS POLICY OR IN ANY OTHER POLICY CREATES A CONTRACT RIGHT. CONSISTENT WITH SOUTH CAROLINA LAW, ALL TEAM MEMBERS ARE EMPLOYED "AT WILL," WHICH MEANS THAT THE TEAM MEMBER HAS THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE HIS OR HER EMPLOYMENT AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE OR CAUSE, AND THAT PRISMA HEALTH AND/OR ITS AFFILIATED ENTITIES RETAIN THE SAME RIGHT.

Prisma Health Safe Patient Handling

Approved Date: 02/26/2021	Effective Date: 02/27/2021	Review Date: 02/26/2022
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Scope:

Prisma Health-Midlands		Prisma Health-Upstate	
	Prisma Health Baptist Hospital	X	Prisma Health Greenville Memorial Hospital
X	Prisma Health Baptist Parkridge Hospital	X	Prisma Health Greer Memorial Hospital
	Prisma Health Richland Hospital	X	Prisma Health Hillcrest Hospital
X	Prisma Health Tuomey Hospital	X	Prisma Health Laurens County Hospital
	Prisma Health Children’s Hospital-Midlands	X	Prisma Health Oconee Memorial Hospital
	Prisma Health Heart Hospital	X	Prisma Health North Greenville Hospital
	PH USC Medical Group	X	Prisma Health Patewood Hospital
	Provider based facilities associated with Prisma Health-Midlands hospitals	X	Prisma Health Surgery Center - Spartanburg
		X	Prisma Health Marshall I. Pickens Hospital
		X	Prisma Health Children's Hospital-Upstate
		X	Prisma Health Roger C. Peace Hospital
		X	Prisma Health Baptist Easley Hospital
		X	University Medical Group UMG/PIH
		X	Provider based facilities associated with Prisma Health-Upstate hospitals

Policy Statement:

Use of appropriate patient handling equipment and devices are mandatory on units that have equipment, except in medical emergencies, when further harm to the patient would occur, or during therapeutic interventions directed toward increasing the patient’s independence as guided by a licensed therapist or therapy assistant. All Prisma Health team members should assist in the support of safe patient handling, mobility initiatives, and minimally lifting.

Associated Policies and Procedures:

[Human Resources - Team Member Corrective Action](#)

Associated Lippincott Procedures:

[Minimal Lift and Transfer Procedure](#)

Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.

Definitions:

1. Use Portable Lifts in Facilitating Transfers (UPLIFT) – Formal safe patient program in designated areas designed to assist team members with using equipment, which includes training, competencies, following up after events, and implementation of products based on specific unit needs.
2. Medical record - Any electronic clinical information system, paper or manual system used for documentation of a patient’s medical data, including but not limited to medical history, care or treatments received, test results, diagnoses, and medications taken; or any data in the normal course of business to document the healthcare services provided to an individual in any aspect of healthcare delivery.
3. UPLIFT Facilitator – A clinical job defined by job description that is responsible for the oversight of the minimal lift program in designated areas of Prisma Health.
4. UPLIFT Coach – Designated team member with additional training for specified units and work areas to mentor and encourage team members in the appropriate use of mobility equipment and train and deem competency under the direction of the UPLIFT Facilitator or Clinical Educator.
5. Recommend adding campus champion

Responsible Positions:

- UPLIFT Facilitator
- Leaders in departments where patients are being moved
- Clinical Educator
- UPLIFT Coach
- Team Members involved in any aspect of moving patients
- Clinical Engineering
- Employee Health
- Executive Leadership

Equipment Needed:

- Mechanical standing/raising/transferring devices
- Air-powered transfer and repositioning mattresses
- Full-length slide boards
- Friction-reducing ergonomic devices
- Gait belts
- Other Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment as appropriate
- Ceiling lifts

Procedural Steps:

1. Patient handling activities include but are not limited to the following:
 - 1.1. Repositioning in bed
 - 1.2. Bed to chair/wheelchair transfer
 - 1.3. Bed to stretcher and return
 - 1.4. Stretcher to treatment table and return

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- 1.5. Bed to bedside commode
 - 1.6. Floor recovery to include floor to bed
 - 1.7. Assisting with ambulation of unstable patient
 - 1.8. Catching a falling patient
 - 1.9. Any other maneuver requiring total body movement of the non-ambulatory patient
2. During some situations the use of patient handling equipment may not be indicated. This may occur when a team member is presented with life-threatening situations, or in the care of pediatric patients that may preclude use of assistive devices. During these situations, patient handling activities should be minimized whenever possible without negatively impacting patient care or exceeding the abilities of the team member.
- 2.1 Therapy services will use equipment in therapeutic manner.
3. Prisma Health team members trained in the use of Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment should:
- 3.1. Use proper techniques, transfer/mobility equipment and devices, and obtain assistance when needed during performance of lifting, moving or transferring a patient.
 - 3.2. Use all Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment following manufacturer's guidelines and training provided.
 - 3.3. Verify mobility needs prior to assisting a patient with a move or transfer.
 - 3.4. Report any barrier or limitations with mobility procedures to the charge nurse or their leader including but not limited to unavailable or malfunctioning equipment.
 - 3.5. Report any transfer/mobility equipment or devices that are in need of repair or replacement to Clinical Engineering.
 - 3.6. Notify the leader and Employee Health immediately of any injury sustained while performing patient handling task.
4. Training
- 4.1. Initial validation of clinical competency of Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment should occur upon hire by an UPLIFT Facilitator, Clinical Educator, UPLIFT Coach, or other trained designee.
 - 4.1.1. Team members that use Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment as part of their job role should successfully complete the required educational assignments and competencies prior to equipment use.
 - 4.2. Validation of clinical competency
 - 4.2.1. Annual assessment and demonstrated competency shall be required of all team members that use Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment.
 - 4.2.2. Documentation of successful completion of annual competencies

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should be recorded in Learning Hub.

5. Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment

5.1. In areas that have an UPLIFT Facilitator, prior to purchase of patient handling equipment, the UPLIFT Facilitator should be consulted for evaluation and recommendation of patient handling equipment. The UPLIFT Facilitator and UPLIFT facility specific champions can assist in the process of obtaining Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment.

5.1.1 With new construction, the UPLIFT Facilitator and UPLIFT Champion should be present during planning sessions.

5.2. All team members that have Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment should tag and report equipment not working to the UPLIFT Facilitator, UPLIFT Coach, Clinical Engineering or their leader.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1. Corporate Leadership which includes Nursing Executive Leadership, other departmental leadership, and Corporate Finance Leadership

6.1.1. Provide support for sufficient availability of transfer/mobility equipment and devices, team member staff training, and UPLIFT program resources.

6.1.2. Furnish code compliant locations for storing equipment and devices when not in use. **Include DHEC statement**

6.2. Leaders

6.2.1. Monitor maintenance and proper working order of the transfer/mobility equipment and devices. Contact Clinical Engineering for services.

6.2.2. Ensure team member compliance with the Prisma Health Safe Patient Handling Policy and take appropriate action when failure to do by collaborating with your Human Resources Business Partner.

6.2.3. Notify Employee Health of all injuries related to patient handling and complete appropriate documentation.

6.2.4. Ensure new team members are aware of the Safe Patient Handling Policy, the required training and use of equipment.

6.3. Clinical nursing

6.3.1. In areas with Prisma Health approved patient handling equipment, complete a mobility status screening at a minimum of every shift and with any change in patient clinical condition. Record the screening results in the medical record and report mobility status during patient handoff. If recommended equipment is not available, the use of alternative equipment is acceptable if it is clinically indicated and safe for the patient and team member.

6.3.2. For areas utilizing UPLIFT equipment with sling capability, use the UPLIFT **Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.**

General Sling Guide to determine the appropriate sling size.

- 6.4. Clinical Engineering Services shall maintain transfer/mobility equipment in proper working order.

References:

1. Bonomi, J., Brooks, S., Chapman, T., Garrison, E., White, L. (2017). IMPLEMENTING A SAFE PATIENT HANDLING PROGRAM IN A COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SETTING. *National Journal of Safe Patient Handling & Mobility*, Vol. 7(2),74-81.
2. Choi, J., & Cramer, E. (2016). Reports from RNs on Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Programs in Acute Care Hospital Units. *JONA: The Journal of Nursing Administration*, 46(11), 566-573. doi:10.1097/nna.0000000000000406
3. Cortez, Wendy, Ruby Gill, and Grace Chun. "Peer Feedback Drives Improved Injury Rates." *Nursing Management (Springhouse)* 48, no. 10 (2017): 16-19. doi:10.1097/01.numa.0000524820.33911.87.
4. Fragala, G. (2016). Reducing Occupational Risk to Ambulatory Caregivers. *Workplace Health & Safety*, 64(9), 414-419. doi:10.1177/2165079916642776
5. S. Hignett et al., "Evidence-based patient handling: systematic review," *Nursing Standard* 17, no. 33 (2003):33–36.
6. U.S. Veteran's Health Administration, Center for Engineering and Occupational Safety and Health *Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Guidebook* (2016).

Appendices:

[UPLIFT General Sling Guide](#)