

6 common mistakes allied health professionals make when prescribing full lifting mobile hoists

Full lifting mobile hoists are recommended in the moving and handling of people with disabilities when a client loses the ability to weight bear. Full lifting hoist systems comprise of a hoist, a spreader bar and a sling. Once we know that a client is a candidate for a full lifting mobile hoist, we need to be able to recommend one for them. In the prescription of hoists there are massive opportunities to minimize manual handling by the hoist you choose and the way you use it.

In our training of health professionals, we commonly see these 7 mistakes health professional make when prescribing full lifting mobile hoists.

1. Simple opportunities to avoid manual handling are missed because of the hoist system chosen

Health professionals make choices about the prescription of hoists all the time. In many instances the hoist they prescribe is safe, but the care of the person with a disability is still hard. This leaves the client and their caregiver exposed to much more manual handling than they need to be. The prescriber is constantly missing simple opportunities to avoid manual handling just by the hoist they choose and how it takes every opportunity to avoid manual handling.

2. They don't know what makes one hoist different to the other

There are hundreds of hoists to choose from on the market and many decisions the health professional has to make in choosing between them. This choice overwhelms health professionals because they don't know what they are looking for and what makes one hoist different to the other. When you cut out all the noise in terms of choice, you see that there are only a very simple list of choices to make when prescribing any hoist system to allow the client and their caregiver get the best out of it.

3. They don't know how to get the best out of their pool resources

Many organisations or health services feel they have the opposite problem. They feel they don't have choice as they can have a contract with one specific company. They are required to use a hoist within a certain range. The 'within a range' decisions quite often involve many of the most critical decisions in the hoist prescription process to get the best out of the resource for the client and their caregiver. I regularly see health professionals wasting their resources by not strategically pointing resources to where they are going to have the greatest impact.

4. The don't know what makes one spreader bar different to the other

There are a number of spreader bar choices for a health professional to make. These include a standard spreader bar, pivot frame or four-pronged yoke. Health professionals are unclear about the advantages of disadvantages of each option and when one might be chosen over the other to make the care of a person with a disability easier. Again health professionals are missing opportunities to take advantage of some of key ways to make care of a person with a disability easier.

5. They don't know how to prescribe a sling

When a health professional makes the choice on a sling, they have an endless selection of options. It is hard to know what makes one sling different to the other and to justify why a certain decision was made with choosing a specific sling. Like with hoists, there are key decisions and minor decisions. As prescribers we need to be able to cut through the noise to systematically determine what decisions are of significance and hold the opportunities to make care safe and more efficient for the client and their caregiver.

6. They don't know how to use a hoist

Opportunities to avoid manual handling lie in the prescription of hoists but also in the use of them. There are many opportunities to eliminate manual handling just by the way we use a hoist. As health professionals we need to be confident in how to take every opportunity to eliminate manual handling during a hoist procedure to make the care of the person with the disability safe, easier and more efficient.

Interested in learning how to prescribe full lifting hoists. Visit our website and check out HoistEd Level 2: Choosing and Using Full Lifting Mobile Hoists.

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