



# Assessing Transfer Equipment

Ensuring appropriate equipment is readily accessible for transfer activities can help in protecting employees and patients from injury. A number of factors need to be assessed to determine if an adequate supply of equipment is available at facilities where resident/patient transfer activities occur. United Heartland Loss Control representatives can provide customers a review of their SPHM equipment needs and offer recommendations for improvement. The consultation includes the development of a customized equipment assessment form, which can be used as needed to address changes in resident/patient physical abilities, staffing numbers and resident/patient distribution within the facility.

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## Measuring Equipment Needs

Mechanical transfer equipment needs depend on the resident/patient’s physical abilities, as well as staffing levels. It’s important to have an adequate supply of transfer equipment to ensure staff members have access to it when it is needed. It is recommended that two staff members are used when transferring an individual with a mechanical device.

An optimal ratio of resident to equipment requirements would be a 9:1 ratio; that is, nine patients/residents to one piece of equipment, keeping in mind building layout, staffing levels, special needs and storage. One backup unit of each equipment type (total assist lift, sit-to-stand lift, lateral transfer/friction-reducing device) should also be available when equipment is pulled out of service for repair or maintenance.

## Let Us Help You

Contact your dedicated United Heartland Loss Control representative to learn more about how we can ensure your SPHM program has the necessary tools and equipment to remain safe and effective.

## What We Assess

Your SPHM coordinator will conduct the equipment assessment with you. It includes:

- An inventory of the number and type of equipment on hand, including: total assist lifts, sit-to-stand lifts and lateral transfer/friction-reducing devices.
- The number of patients/residents and their transfer or mobility needs, by floor or wing, based on established objective transfer criteria.
- Identification of equipment storage locations and charging stations.
- A written report summarizing findings and recommendations.
- Assistance with future SPHM equipment-training activities.

Working together with your SPHM coordinator, an improvement plan can be developed to address areas where additional equipment may be needed. Because of the many different types of SPHM equipment available on the market today, our team can discuss available vendor options.

## Sample SPHM Equipment Assessment Form

Resident Transfer Demographics by Floor				
Floor/Wing	# Independent	# Fully Ambulatory	# Semi-Ambulatory	# Non-Ambulatory
	No transfer needs	Resident can be standing for _____(your criteria) bearing weight without assistance.	Resident can stand for less than _____ (your criteria) bearing weight with some assistance.	Resident is non-weight bearing.

CNA Staffing Levels			
Floor/Wing	Days	PMs	Nights

Current Equipment Distribution		
Floor/Wing	Sit/Stand	Total Lift

Recommended Equipment Distribution		
Floor/Wing	Sit/Stand	Total Lift

