

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHLS) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Sling Loop Migration contributes to fall from client lift

Summary:

A client fell forward from a sling during a transfer process with a mechanical lift.

One sling loop became disconnected from the carry hook during the transfer resulting in a sudden forward movement of the client.

The client sustained a minor laceration to the forehead as well as a fractured femur in an attempt to break the impact of the fall.

Keywords: sling- loop migration failure, mechanical lift, fall

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Falls

Findings of the Review:

Inconsistencies in the sequence of steps to attach the sling to the carry hook prior to the transfer increased the risk of loop disconnection.

Spreader bar movement was not within manufacturer recommended specifications which could contribute to the potential for loop migration.

It is possible for the sling loop to migrate off the carry hook due to the size of the sling loops and design of the carry hook.

System Learning:

Deliver the Lifts & Transfers training program to direct care providers that use mechanical lifts.

The availability of a quick reference guide for safe lift operation and daily inspection prior to the transfer of a client will ensure easy reference to appropriate reference information.

The development of guidelines to ensure proper sling sizing will minimize the risk of sling loop migration.

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