

<i>Issued By:-</i>	Joint Health and Safety Committee
<i>Reference:-</i>	Joint Health and Safety Committee
<i>Title: -</i>	<u>SAFE PATIENT HANDLING</u>
<i>Policy Number: -</i>	VI-c-15-16

POLICY:

Mount Sinai Hospital (“Hospital”) is committed to providing a safe work environment for its staff and patients. Each staff member is expected to provide quality patient care in a manner that is safe for both the patient and employee. It is required that staff use appropriate assistive devices and safe patient handling techniques for all patient handling activities.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Hospital staff and agency staff who are involved with lifting, repositioning and/or transferring of patients at the Hospital.

DEFINITIONS

Patient handling activities include:

- Patient lift – a lift is a procedure used to carry the entire weight of a patient from one surface to another. A lift is the procedure chosen to move a patient who is physically unable to weight bear or is mentally incapable (or uncooperative) and unable to participate in a transfer.
- Patient repositioning – repositioning a patient is a procedure to achieve precise placement of a patient on a surface, while ensuring mental and physical comfort. The appropriate repositioning device and technique/strategy should be used.
- Patient transfer – a transfer is a procedure used to assist a patient to move from one surface to another. It is a dynamic, co-operative action between the patient and the employee(s). The patient must be able to bear weight through at least one leg or both arms.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

The safety of both the patient and staff depends upon adherence to the following guidelines;

1. All patients shall be individually assessed as to their handling needs according to unit and patient population specific requirements prior to every patient handling activity.
2. Based on that assessment, the staff member will choose the safest method of patient handling. This may include the use of a ceiling or mechanical lift, transfer and/or other assistive devices or techniques.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Hospital shall:

Demonstrate commitment to creating a safe working environment in the area of patient handling by providing support and resources and encourages safe work practices during patient handling. This commitment will be demonstrated in the following ways:

- Provide access to the required equipment to assist with safe patient handling.
- Provide training in safe patient handling technique and use of equipment specific to the unit and patient population.
- Ensure that all staff attends appropriate training for all patient handling equipment.
- Maintain a record of training.
- Respond appropriately when equipment maintenance issues are identified.
- Respond appropriately to any incidents that involve patients or employees.



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- Monitor injury statistics to look for trending and the effect of strategies implemented to prevent further injuries.
- Create mechanisms to review and augment equipment as required.

Occupational Health & Safety shall:

- Track workplace and lost time injuries to identify trends.
- Provide departmental reports of incident types and outcomes to department manager on a quarterly basis.
- Provide consultative services to managers when incident trends are apparent and provide statistics to monitor effectiveness of prevention strategies when requested.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the MSD Prevention Program through the provision of quarterly reports to the MSD Working Group and the JHSC

All staff shall:

- Comply with the Safe Patient Handling Policy.
- Participate in training as established by the manager.
- Achieve and maintain competency with use of patient handling devices and safe patient handling technique.
- Identify any learning needs to the manager.
- Identify and report any work hazards or malfunctioning equipment.
- Recommend new or additional equipment.
- Perform, document and communicate patient assessments as to lifting/handling needs.
- Seek advice from the Rehabilitation Department in situations where patient repositioning, transfer or lifting needs are a challenge, to assist to determine an appropriate and safe patient handling process.