

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

Transfer Belts for Position Changes in Partially Mobile Patients: Safety and Guidelines

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Research Questions

1. What is the comparative safety of transfer belts versus lift belts for changing positions of partially mobile patients?
2. What are the evidence based guidelines regarding manual transfer aids for positional changes in partially mobile patients?

Key Findings

No evidence was found regarding the safety transfer belts for changing positions of partially mobile patients. Additionally, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding manual transfer aids for positional changes in partially mobile patients.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, the University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were patient transfer devices. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2009 and August 15, 2019. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Partially mobile patients requiring a position change (e.g., laying to sitting, laying to standing, standing to sitting, sitting to standing, assisted walks)
Intervention	Transfer belts (e.g., two-inch belt with no handles, also known as gait belts)
Comparator	Q1: Lift belts (e.g., belt with handles, wider than a transfer belt with increased back support, can also be called transfer or gait belts) Q2: No Comparator

Outcomes	Q1: Safety (e.g., number of falls, injuries) Q2: Guidelines
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized control trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines.

Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the safety of transfer belts for changing positions of partially mobile patients. Additionally, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding manual transfer aids for positional changes in partially mobile patients.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding transfer belts for changing positions of partially mobile patients; therefore, no summary can be provided.

References Summarized

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

Appendix — Further Information

Previous CADTH Reports

1. Patient Lifts and Transfer Equipment for Preventing Pressure Ulcers: A Review of Clinical and Cost-Effectiveness and Guidelines. (*CADTH Rapid response report: summary with critical appraisal*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2013 Mar. <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/apr-2013/RC0439%20Lift%20Devices%20for%20Turning%20Report%20Final.pdf>
2. Patient Lifts and Transfer Equipment: A Review of Clinical and Cost-Effectiveness and Guidelines. (*CADTH health technology inquiry service*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2010 Jul. https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/L0192_patient_lifts_htis-2.pdf

Clinical Practice Guidelines

3. Provincial Residential Care Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention Team. Provincial safe resident handling standards for musculoskeletal injury: prevention in British Columbia. Vancouver (BC): Provincial Health Services Authority; 2011. <http://www.phsa.ca/Documents/Occupational-Health-Safety/HandbookProvincialSafeResidentHandlingStandardsfor.pdf>
See: Resident Transfers and Ambulation – Rationale, page 26:

Review Articles

4. Aslam I, Davis SA, Feldman SR, Martin WE. A Review of Patient Lifting Interventions to Reduce Health Care Worker Injuries. *Workplace Health Saf.* 2015 Jun;63(6):267-275; quiz 276. [PubMed: PM26135600](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26135600/)