

# APPENDIX J

## Floor-Based Lifts Coverage Determination

To determine the number of floor-based lifts required for a unit or facility, the general rule of thumb is one portable lift per 8–10 patients. For example, the number of sit-to-stand lifts needed for a unit with 30 patients, 30 percent of whom are categorized as requiring partial assistance, (n=9) is one lift. The number of floor-based, full-body sling lifts required in a unit with no ceiling lifts in place and 30 patients, 60 percent of whom are considered fully dependent or require extensive assistance (n=18), is two lifts.

When deciding how much portable equipment to purchase, consider peak patient handling and movement times/loads during each shift. Note that the number of portable, floor-based lifts will be reduced with the introduction of fixed lift systems, such as ceiling-mounted systems.

Table J-1 can be used to determine the number of floor-based lifts—both full-body sling lifts and sit-to-stand lifts—needed for each clinical area/unit.

### ■ Floor-based sling lift recommendations.

These are based on ceiling lift coverage as specified and calculated using Table I-1 in Appendix I.

- If ceiling lift coverage is less than that in Table I-1, the need for floor-based sling lifts will increase, requiring more storage space. Use the rule of thumb of one per 8–10 dependent patients not covered by ceiling lifts (from the NIOSH article referenced in Table I-1).
- With full ceiling lift coverage as in Table I-1, floor-based sling lifts may be shared by units on one or more floors, decreasing the number required.

### ■ Sit-to-stand lift recommendations

- The recommendations shown in Table J-1 apply when there is no other means of risk control for the patient characteristics and activities being addressed (toileting, dressing, peri-care, vertical transfers, etc., of partially dependent patients).
- Now that ambulation slings with ceiling lifts are used more often to assist in ambulating and vertical transfers, the quantity of sit-to-stand lifts needed (and associated space requirements) will decrease when other ceiling lift adaptations or technology are used and/or available.

**Table J-1: Portable/Floor-Based Lift Minimal Coverage by Clinical Area/Unit**

CLINICAL UNIT/AREA	RECOMMENDED COVERAGE	
	Sit-to-Stand Lifts	Floor-Based Sling Lifts <sup>2</sup>
General medical unit	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Medical/surgical unit	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Post-surgical unit	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Rehab unit	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
MICU	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
SICU	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
CCU	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
ICU (Combined MICU/SICU/CCU)	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Nursing home/long term care	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Geri-psych	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Psychiatry	One per 8–10 partially weight-bearing patients <sup>1</sup>	One per floor or unit
Emergency dept./urgent care	One	One
Radiology/diagnostics (X-ray, CT, nuclear medicine, MRI) <i>(If possible, specify diagnostic tables without pedestals or with pedestal design that accommodates placement of portable/floor-based lifts under table and around pedestal.)</i>	One per entire radiology/diagnostic area <i>Note: Tables must accommodate lift bases.</i>	One per entire radiology/diagnostic area <i>Note: Tables must accommodate lift bases.</i>
Physical therapy clinics	One per clinic	One per clinic
OR	None	None
PACU	None	None
Procedure areas (GI, cystoscopy, cath lab, etc.)	One per floor/unit	One per floor or unit
Spinal cord injury unit	None or one <i>(Depending on patient population)</i>	One per floor or unit
Outpatient SCI clinic exam/treatment rooms	None or one <i>(Depending on patient population)</i>	None
Outpatient/primary care clinics <i>Exam tables must accommodate lift base.</i>	One <i>(May need additional lifts if clinics are not in close proximity to one another)</i>	One <i>(May need additional lifts if clinics are not in close proximity to one another)</i>

CLINICAL UNIT/AREA	RECOMMENDED COVERAGE	
	Sit-to-Stand Lifts	Floor-Based Sling Lifts <sup>2</sup>
Hemodialysis <i>Chair design must accommodate lift base.</i>	One <i>(Depending on typical patient population and whether using chairs and/or beds)</i>	None
Dental <i>Dental chairs must accommodate lift base.</i>	One	None
Pediatrics	One	One
Nurse training area	One	One
Morgue	None	If no ceiling lift, provide "morgue lift."

1 J. Collins et al., *Safe Lifting and Movement of Nursing Home Residents* (DHHS [NIOSH] Publication Number 2006-117, 2006).

2 These recommendations are based on ceiling lift coverage as shown in Table I-1 in Appendix I.