



Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council

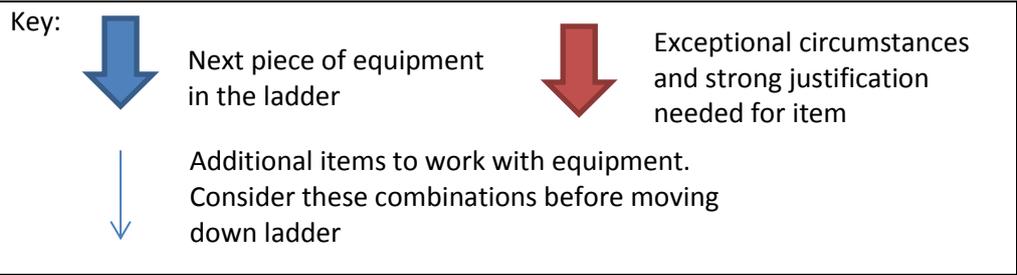
Hertfordshire Equipment Service

Functional need pathways and new policy guidance on Ladder Approach

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Introduction



Purpose

This is a guidance document intended to aid understanding and use of the new Hertfordshire Equipment Services (HES) policy.

Content

This document consist of flow charts to navigate the new ‘ladder approach’ to prescription of equipment.

What is a ‘ladder approach’?

A ladder approach to prescription consists of grouping and organising types of equipment based on functional need. Each functional need pathway is graded- based on the severity of need in efforts to help prevent overprescribing of loaned equipment.

Service user preference or familiarity for a piece of equipment is not part of the assessment process. If the user is used to a given item but it is not where they are on the functional need ladder, than they should not be prescribed it – The service User should not be prescribed an item that is more complex than their ability (or position) requires on the Functional Ladder.

Over-prescription is when service users are accidentally *prescribed more equipment and/or more complicated equipment than what they need*. This has serious consequences for both service users and the service. It can lead to service users losing independence faster as they grow used to equipment that is more than they need. It can clutter the home causing stress to service users and family members. It can increase costs to the service meaning money is unavailable to help service users elsewhere.

The ladder approach is meant to aid prescribers finding appropriate equipment that is compliant with HES’s new policy.

Some other things to consider:

Functional need of service users is the first, last, and only thing being assessed in terms of prescribing equipment. Equipment is being loaned on this basis alone.

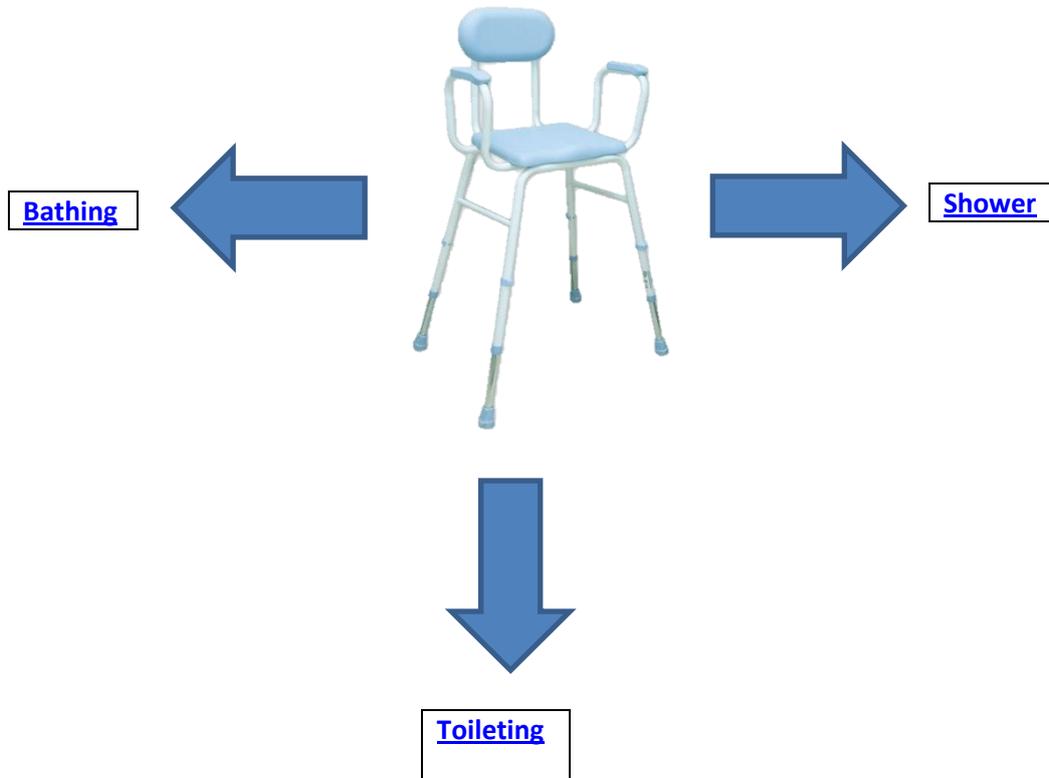
Brand names are not present in this document to encourage flexibility in ordering and to decrease brand loyalty. Relationship to equipment reps or familiarity with a particular item should **never** be used as criteria when assessing functional need.

Service user preference or familiarity for a piece of equipment is not part of the assessment process. If the user is used to a given item but it is not where they are on the functional need ladder, than they should not be prescribed it.

Equipment is being **loaned** to service users. This must be made clear to service users and their families, this equipment is owned by HES who make it available on loan. It is not gifted to the service user.

Personal Hygiene

Perching stool at hand-basin



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Bathing

Bath Board

Enables seated supported access into the bath



Shower board (wider bath board)



Swivel Bather



Additional items to use with equipment	
Bath Step 	Grab Rail 
Grip-on Bath-board 	Bath Seat 

Additional items to use with equipment
Bath tap adapted shower 

Additional items to use with equipment
Bath Step 



Bath Lift
(A recliner model is available. Justification required.)

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Shower

Note: A shower can be installed, if needed but unavailable, using a DFG, in the meantime equipment may be loaned from the above pathway to adapt the bath.

Shower Stools

Free standing



Wall mounted

Be aware of location of pipes in walls, may not be appropriate for all clients' showers



Additional equipment

Grab Rail

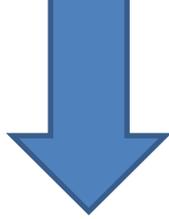


Combined Commode/ Shower chair

Adjustable height. Self-propelling available

Aids: toilet use, fine trunk control





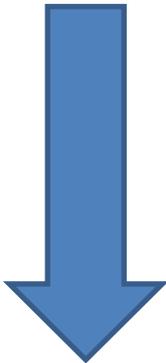
Modular Shower Chair

Increased complexity of pressure relief and posture support for client, can support range of aperture variations



Accessories for Modular Shower Chair

Head Support



Tilt in Space

Increased postural needs that require a tilted position to deliver personal care



Toileting

Adaptions over toilet

Raised Toilet Seat



Grab Rail



Raised Toilet Seat and Grab Rail



Toilet Frame



Raised Toilet Seat and Frame



Integrated Raised Toilet Seat Surround



Uplift Raised Seat with Handles

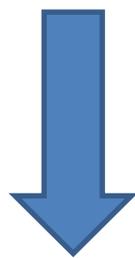


Mobility toileting

Commode



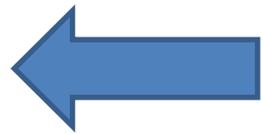
Wheeled Commode



Combined Shower-chair/
Commode



Uplift Commode



Seating Functional Need Pathways

Sit to Stand

Pressure Relief

Postural Support

Sit to Stand

Seat Raisers



Foam Wedge



Standing Aids



Elevator Cushion



Riser Chair

Chair is unsuitable for adaptations
Loaned whilst sourcing alternative
provision



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Pressure relief:

To alter angle of chair
promote pressure relief/
postural drainage
Service user requires postural
realignment

[See below pathway](#)

Postural Support



The person needs additional
assistance to rise from a low chair
and their safety is being
compromised.
To alter angle of chair promote
pressure relief/ postural drainage
Normal cushions insufficient



Tilt in space/ care chair

Service user's own chair is unsuitable for adaptations.
Adaptions to users own chair insufficient for medical needs



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Beds

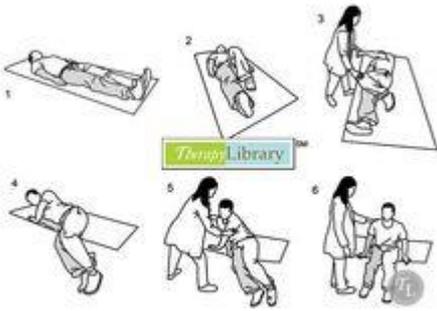
[Standing to seated on the bed](#)

[Lying flat to seated on bed](#)

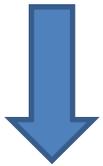
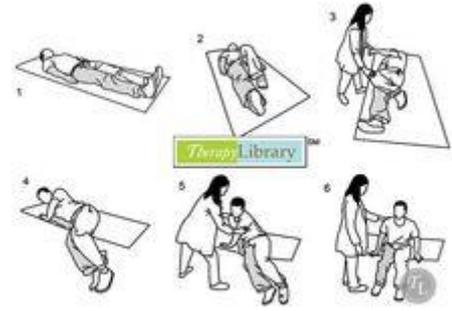
[Seated on bed to lying flat](#)

Standing to Seated on bed

Seated on bed to lying flat



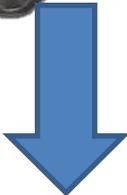
Techniques taught to assist movement



Sliding Bedding/
Satin Sheets



Bed Raisers/
Lowers



Bed Rails



Back Rest



Pillow Elevator



Mattress Elevator



Leg Lifters



Electric Leg Lifters



Profiling bed

Approval needed from specialist advisor



Bariatric Bed



Low Profiling Bed

(Height requirements)

Ultra-Low Bed (aka Floor Bed)

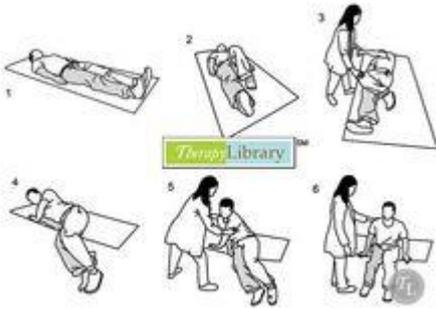
For: Frequent fallers
Independent Transfers



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Lying to seated on bed

Techniques taught to assist movement



Sliding Bedding



Pillow Elevator



Lifting Pole



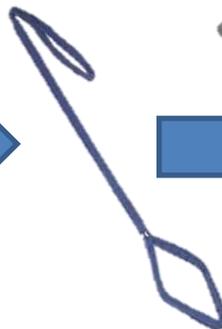
Bed Rails



Electric Leg Lifters



Leg Lifters



Mattress Elevator



Profiling bed

Approval needed
from specialist
advisor



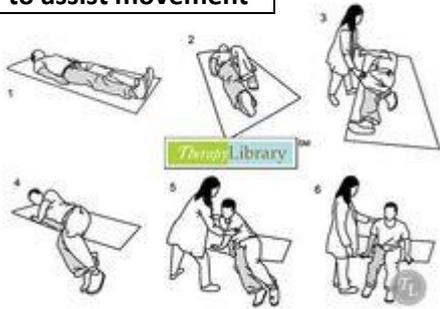
**Bariatric
Bed**



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Seated on bed to standing

Techniques taught to assist movement



Sliding Bedding



Bed rails



Handling belt



Rota Stand



Standing Frame with wheels



Use with other equipment

Bed Raisers



Mattress Elevator



Standing Hoist

- Temporary
- Treatment, not handling device
- Not for toileting



Profiling bed

Approval needed from specialist advisor
Standing Hoist inappropriate for location or service user. Service user requires independent transfer



Requires Independent Transfer

Low Profiling Bed
(Height requirements)



Bariatric Bed



Ultra-Low Bed (aka Floor Bed)

For: Frequent fallers
Independent Transfers



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Pressure Care

When a new pressure sore is discovered give the following information in the assessment form:

- Location on body
- Cause
- Other attempts at management
- CATEGORY
- Service user weight

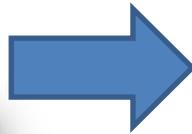
Go to [Pressure Care in Bed](#)

Go to [Seated Pressure Relief](#)

Pressure Care in Bed

Foam replacement (memoflex)

Pressure Reducing Foam Overlay
Note: not really used- check uptake with Mich
Conventional bed
Waterlow Score: **10-14**
Ulcer Category: $\frac{1}{2}$



Air Overlay

Waterlow Score: **15-20**
Ulcer Category: **1,2**



Air-Replacement Hybrid

Waterlow Score: **15-20**
Ulcer Category: **1-4**
Medical justification why Air Overlay insufficient; refer to TVN



Air Alternating Replacement Mattress

Waterlow Score: **21+**
Ulcer Category: **3/4**
Thorough medical justification required



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Seated Pressure Relief

Foam Chair Cushion

Waterlow Score: **10-14**

Ulcer Category: **1,2**

Max weight 21st/127kg



Air Cushion

Available in single or double

Waterlow Score: **15-20**

Ulcer Category: **1,2**

Max Weight: 22st/127kg



Overlays here



Alternating Air Cushion

Waterlow Score: **21+**

Ulcer Category: **3,4**

Max Weight: 24st/152kg

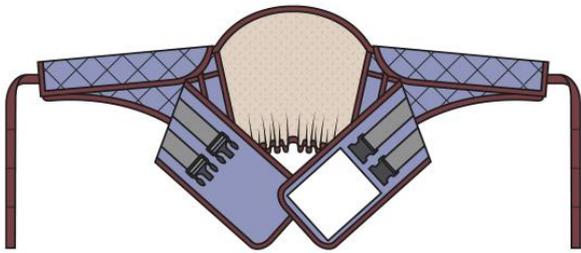


Slings

1. [Standing Hoist](#)
2. [Mobile Hoist](#)
3. [In Chair Slings](#)

Standing Hoist

Chest Sling



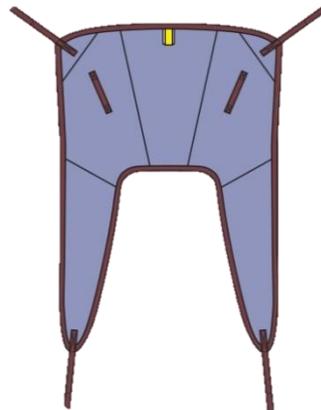
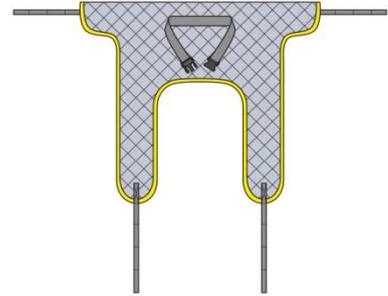
Additional items

Additional Posterior Support Sling



Transport Sling

Intermittent/unreliable weight bearing



Comfort Sling

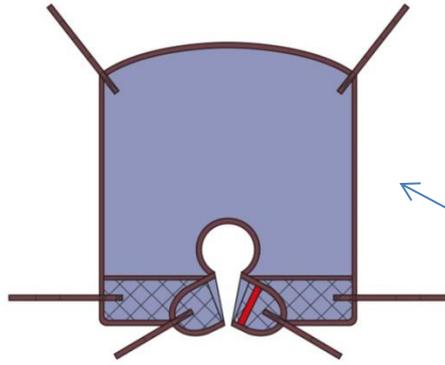
Service User cannot tolerate being lifted under the shoulders.
Check hoist compatibility

Service User can no longer bear weight

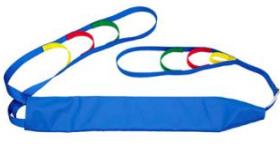


Mobile Hoist

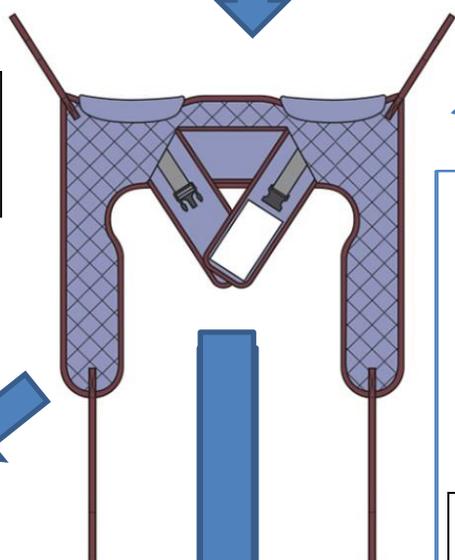
Standard Slings



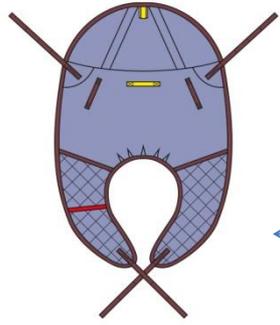
Additional items
Limb lifter
Can be used with or without slings



Standard toileting sling
Good trunk control and service user compliance



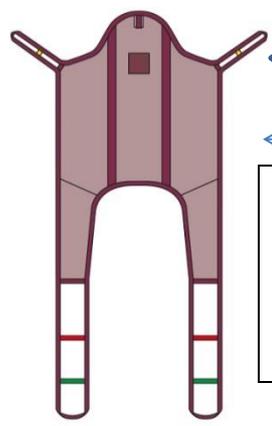
Sling With Head Support



Padded and Slip Easy Sling
Application and Tissue Viability issues



High Backed Sling
Risk with head support/ less trunk control



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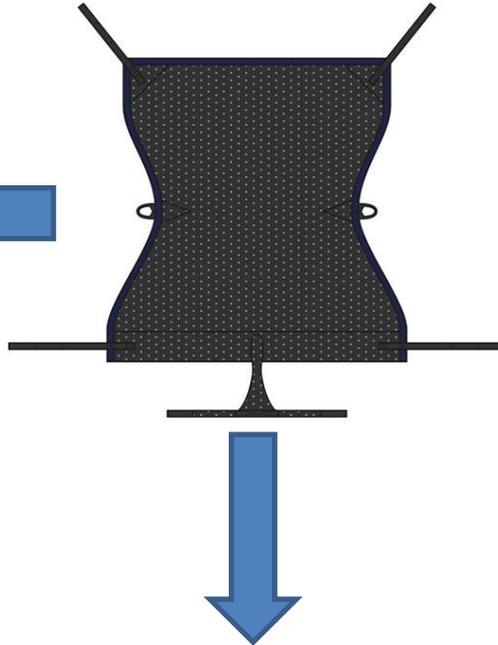
In Chair Slings

In Chair Sling w/Leg Split
Leg pressure and pain management needed. Sling has toilet aperture



Standard Sitting-In-Chair Sling

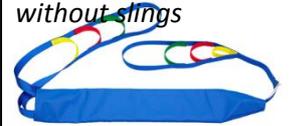
Frequent transfers and frequent use



Additional items

Limb lifter

Can be used with or without slings



In Chair Sling with extensor loops

Full support needed and issues with repositioning



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Other Manual Handling

Assisting to stand



Standing Aid



Static turning disc



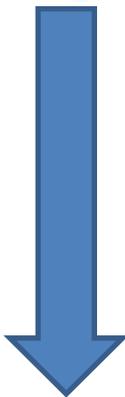
Static Turning Disc
w/Counterbalance



Static turning aid *Stability needs*



Transfer transport turn aid
small distances



Transfer and
Transport aid *long distance*

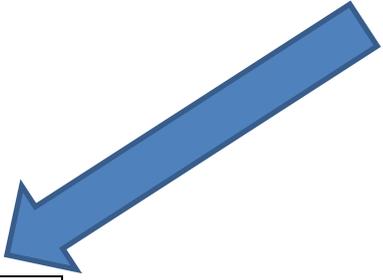


Standing Hoist
requires slings

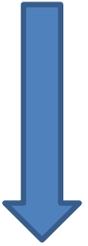




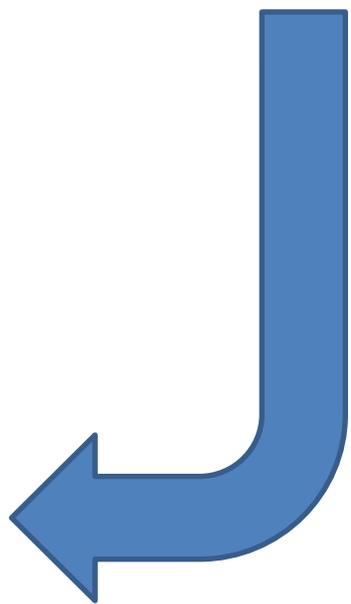
Mobile Hoist



Gantry Hoist
*Interim before
installation of
Ceiling Track*

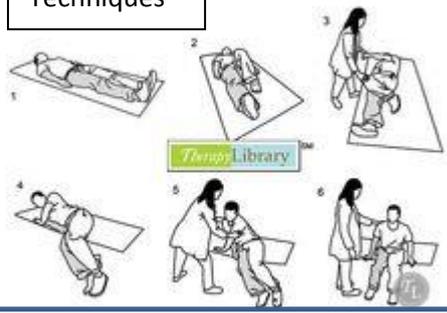


Ceiling Track
Please note this is a DFG not
provided by HES



Seated Transfers in/out of bed

Techniques



Slide Sheets



Transfer Board



Bed Raisers



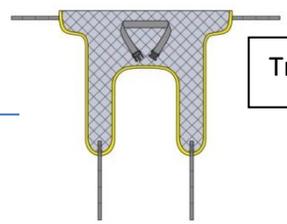
Profiling Bed



Standing Hoist

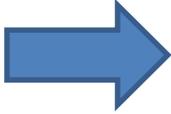


Transport sling

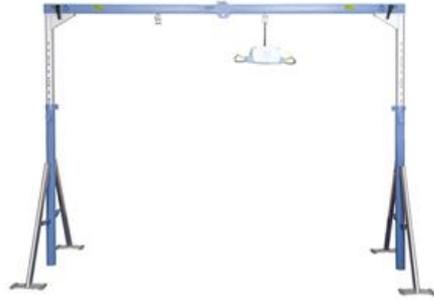




Mobile Hoist

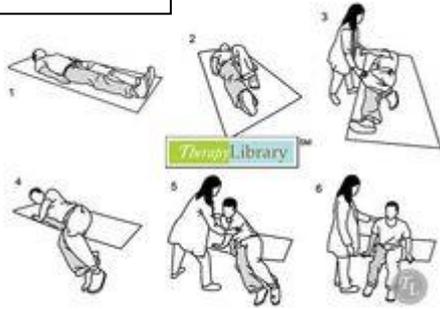


Gantry Hoist



Falls

Techniques



Slide Sheets



Standing Hoist
Requires slings

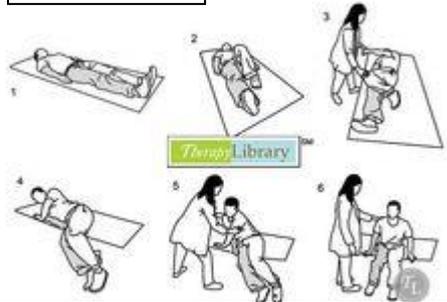


Lifting Cushions
Thorough Justification Required

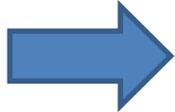


Seated to seated

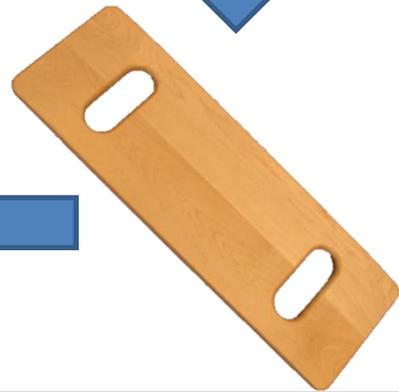
Techniques



Slide Sheets



Transfer Board



Static turning disc



Static turning disc w/ counterbalance



Standing Hoist



Mobile Hoist

