

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIERS

Design controls including the use of manual handling equipment are preferred as they change the way the task is performed. This can eliminate or at least minimise the need for the handler to support the student's entire weight.

Design controls are also the most effective and sustainable option as they reduce the amount of effort required for the handler to perform the task – and in turn, reduce the risk of injury. Design controls offer a more permanent solution and do not rely totally on human behaviour to be effective. For example, the use of a hoist (as opposed to a two person lift) minimises the effort and coordination required by the handlers.

Equipment to assist with manual handling of students varies from very simple slide sheets to hydraulic hoists. The following examples illustrate commonly used manual handling equipment types.

Mechanical Hoists are a preferable control option to limit the exertion required to physically transfer a student. A wide variety of hoists exist – from standing hoists to pool hoists and there are even portable options. Hoist prices start at approximately \$2000.



Standing hoists can be used when the student can still partially weight bear through both legs. The more expensive standing hoists can be used for assisting a student to walk.

Sling hoists take all of the student's weight and do not require any effort from the student. There are numerous options for slings depending on the size of the student and the purpose of the transfer. Some manufacturers produce portable hoists, which either separate into two parts or fold down for easy transport.



The hoist and sling should be appropriate for the student and the activity that is being undertaken. Hoists should be trialled to establish which is most appropriate before purchase. Instruction in hoist use is integral to its acceptance by staff and students.

Use the *Selection & Evaluation of Hoists Checklist* to help you ask the supplier the right questions before purchasing a hoist.

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Mobile Toilet Chairs are a useful option when wheelchair/hoist accessible toilets are not available or if a number of students require toileting rapidly e.g. prior to entering a pool. Their main advantage is that the student can be transferred into the toilet chair outside the toilet cubicle area, where there is more space, and then wheeled over the toilet. If necessary they can be adapted to individual needs to provide postural support when sitting on the toilet chair.



Transfer to wheelchair with Ross FlexiBelt and Ross TurnTable



Walk/transfer Belts are most often used for assisted walking or standing transfers. There is a wide range of walk belts available. These belts have handles which provide a secure grasp point for the handler. The belt is easier to grip than clothing and decreases the effort required to assist the student. A risk assessment of the student's ability should be performed before the belt is used. A walk belt should only be used (e.g. during assisted walking or transfers) with students who are able to take most of their own weight

Slide sheets, turn pads etc greatly reduce the amount of force required by the handlers to transfer a student as the movement becomes a slide rather than a lift. A variety of products are available that can assist with slide transfers from one surface to another e.g. lying to sitting, car transfers and other position changes.



Stools and chairs for staff greatly reduce the amount of bending or awkward postures for staff working with young students or seated students. Well designed chairs also provide an alternative posture for staff and can be height adjustable. For example; hydraulic lift stools on castors, sit/stand stools, saddle chairs and common 5 star base office chairs with back support.





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Arjo Hospital Equipment

Bulimba Qld 4171
Ph: 07 3395 6311
Website: www.arjo.com

Walk on Wheels

1/60 Kremzow Road
Brendale Qld 4500
Ph: 07 3205 5654
Ph: 1300 766 266
Website: www.liko.com

Active Medical Supplies

35 Southgate Ave
Cannon Hill Qld 4170
Ph: 07 3899 8887
Fax: 07 3890 2889

Apollo Medical & Surgical

2/908 Kingsford Smith Drive
Eagle Farm Qld 4009
Ph: 07 3633 5888
Website: www.apollomedical.com.au

L&M Equipment

260 South Pine Road
Enoggera Qld 4051
Ph: 07 3355 4577
Fax: 07 3355 5043
Website: www.landm.com.au
Email: sphillips@landm.com.au

Morris Surgical

124 Lutwyche Road, Windsor 4030
Ph: 07 3357 5944
Fax: 07 3857 0031
Website: www.morrissurgical.com
Email: email@morrissurgical.com

Pelican Products

7 Ruse Street
Osbourne Park WA 6017
Free Ph: 1800 777518
Freefax: 1800 641 477
Website: <http://www.pelicanmanufacturing.com.au/>
Email: sales@pelicanmanufacturing.com.au

Polycane Polymedic

397- 401 Nerang Rd
Ashmore Qld 4214
Ph: 07 5539 3633

Pro-Med Australia

PO Box 1440
Moorabbin Vic 3189
Ph: 03 9532 0466
Fax: 03 9555 0485
www.pro-med.com.au

Sexton Trading Company

PO Box 135
Hamilton Qld 4007
Ph: 07 3268 6599
Fax: 07 3268 6259

- Ask suppliers about their ability to provide training in the use of the equipment.
- It is advisable to consult an appropriate therapist prior to purchase of equipment.
- This list is not exhaustive – you may know of other suppliers of equipment.
- No Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA) or Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) exists for this type of equipment -June 2004.