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**Use of Electric Lift Chairs**

**Policy Statement**

According to F689 in Appendix PP of the State Operations Manual, nursing homes must ensure that the resident environment remains as free of accident hazards as is possible by identifying potential hazards and risk, evaluating the risk, implementing interventions to reduce the risk, and monitoring for effectiveness and modifying interventions when necessary.

For certain residents, the use of an electric lift chair could pose an avoidable hazard if the resident were to inappropriately use and subsequently have a fall.

**Procedures**

1. When a resident or their representative verbalizes a desire to use an electric lift chair, an assessment of risk shall be conducted. This assessment includes the following elements:
   1. Pertinent medical diagnosis.
   2. History of falls related to the use of a lift chair.
   3. Transfer and mobility status including the use of assistive devices and lower extremity weight bearing status.
   4. Cognition including the use of psychotropic medications that may impair the resident’s cognition and determining if the resident is impulsive.
   5. Determining if the resident’s functional abilities allow for safe use of the electric lift chair.
2. Based on the outcome of the assessment, the nursing staff and/or interdisciplinary team will determine if the resident is safe to use the electric lift chair.
3. If the resident is determined to be unsafe, the electric lift chair will not be used unless the resident, or their responsible party is properly educated on the risks of the resident sustaining a fall with a major injury including possible death. This education shall be thoroughly documented in the residents’ record.
4. If the resident or their responsible party would still like to use the electric lift chair, the resident shall be evaluated by occupational, physical, and/or speech therapy to determine if any adaptations can be made to increase the safety of the resident.
5. The interdisciplinary team shall decide if the resident is safe enough to use the electric lift chair or not. The resident and/or their responsible party will be notified of this determination.
6. Associated risks and interventions will be included in the residents’ plan of care.
7. At least quarterly the Electric Lift Chair Assessment will be reviewed and/or updated and the procedures above implemented based on risks identified.
8. If the resident’s functional or cognitive abilities decline during their stay and the electric lift chair is no longer safe for the resident to use, it will be removed from the resident’s room after notifying the resident and/or representative of the risks and identified concerns. If the electric lift chair is the personal property of the resident or their representative it shall be removed from the nursing home by the responsible party and documented accordingly in the residents’ record.
9. Any changes in the interventions or use of the electric lift chair will be updated in the residents’ plan of care.

**Attachment:**

* [Electric Lift Chair Assessment](https://lai.memberclicks.net/assets/Electric%20Lift%20Chair%20Assessment%20IA-IL.pdf)

**References:**

CMS. (2025, Jul 23). *State Operations Manual Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities* <https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines.ltcf.pdf>