

CEILING MOUNTED OVERHEAD HOIST

Information Sheet for EMS Assessors

The following information provides design/technical points, relevant aspects of Ministry of Health EMS funding and clinical considerations to think about during the assessment and modification process.

The EMS Assessor's role is to ensure that the person, family/whanau and caregivers are fully informed. This can be done either by providing the information yourself, or by directing the equipment supplier and/or List Contractor/Builder to assist with technical or installation details.

Design/Technical Points about Ceiling Mounted Overhead Hoists

1. Ceiling mounted overhead hoists run on a track fixed to the ceiling.
2. The person lies/sits, in a sling that is attached to an overhead motor unit.
3. The motor unit is generally a 2-way powered motor system which lifts the person up and down only. The whole unit is pushed sideways manually by the caregiver. A 4 way powered motor system is also available.
4. The hoist has a lifting strap which is generally made of Nylon webbing which comes out from either the top or bottom of the motor.
5. The ceiling must be assessed to ensure it is strong enough to support the hoist. Installation of the track can be complex and involve attachment to roofing beams.
6. The hoist motor requires charging as per the Supplier/Installers instructions. A minimal increase in power costs will be noticed
7. A heavy duty model is required to lift weights over 120kgs.
8. A building consent may be needed for a ceiling mounted hoist and the cost of this will be included in the total cost of the modification
9. Check what features are standard, or optional with the model you are considering. Optional features will need to be specified as an additional need.
10. Specify what size and type of sling is needed.

Care, Use and Maintenance

1. It is important that everyone using the hoist understands how to care for and use it safely.



2. Day to day care, maintenance and charging of the hoist is the person's responsibility.
3. The overhead hoist is a mechanical item and needs to be protected from tampering and/or vandalism.
4. Check with the EMS Provider about ownership. Where the overhead hoist becomes the home owner's property. All repairs, maintenance, servicing, replacement or removal of the hoist and slings becomes the responsibility of the home owner.
5. Annual maintenance for the hoist will need to be arranged by the person and/or home owner. A checklist and maintenance schedule will be supplied by the hoist installer and you need to ensure that the person knows about this and understands it must be carried out to ensure the hoist remains safe for use.

When Considering Installing an Overhead Ceiling Mounted Hoist think about:

1. All features of the overhead hoist required. Check with the Hoist Supplier about all the specifications of the hoist to ensure that you can establish a match between the needs of the person and the features of the hoist and slings required. The Hoist Supplier will provide you with detailed plans and costs, which will enable you to compare options.
2. Note: Some factors can affect the lifting capacity of the hoist motor, and you will need to talk to the supplier about the model you are considering. Such as:
 - The weight of the person
 - The number of lifts required
 - The number of fine 'readjustment' movements are required
3. The location of the unit for charging, talk about this with the person and hoist supplier/installer.
4. If the hoist is to be used over a bath the lifting strap may get wet and introduce moisture into the motor if it runs back inside the motor unit. Talk about this with the person and hoist supplier to determine the best option.

Ministry of Health EMS Funding Considerations

1. Funding is only available once for the same type of modification, therefore the modification recommended needs to meet the person's needs now and in the long term.
2. Ceiling mounted overhead hoists are attached to the home and considered a housing modification. They do not often meet EMS funding criteria as there are generally more cost effective alternatives that should be considered first such as using equipment:
 - portable wheeled hoist



- portable overhead hoist (i.e. not fixed to the ceiling)
3. A portable overhead hoist may be a more suitable option if the need is not long term or the home is rented
 4. Generally the track is installed in:
 - the bedroom for transfers from bed to wheelchair or shower commode or
 - in the bathroom over the shower/bath/toilet.
 5. Be careful when considering a track system is more extensive:
 - going from room to room, or
 - with turntables or
 - complicated designs or
 - a room covering track (H-track) or
 - a four-way motor (powered up/down and side to side).

Note: These do not often meet EMS funding criteria as there are generally more cost effective alternatives. You will need to talk with the EMS Provider about why these options are essential.

6. It is helpful to understand the difference between a housing modification vs. equipment vs. equipment included in a housing modification vs. housing equipment:
 - A housing modification is a permanent / fixed alteration to the home. The housing modification becomes the home owner's property.
 - Equipment which is portable (able to be easily picked up and moved) and is not fixed to the home (and is applied for via an Equipment Application) and is owned by the Ministry of Health.
 - Equipment included in a housing modification is an item that is fixed to the home.
 - Housing equipment is equipment that is included in a housing modification that is removable and able to be refurbished for reissue to another person. The use of reissue housing equipment provides considerable savings to the Ministry of Health EMS budget.

Note: Generally housing equipment includes: 1m low rise platform lifts and modular ramps. The EMS Provider identifies if the equipment included in the housing modification application is considered as 'housing equipment' and will remain the property of the Ministry of Health or becomes the property of the home owner. Check with the EMS Provider for equipment such as stair chair lifts, stair platform lifts, 1.5m lifts, multi-floor lifts, ceiling track hoists, bidets, shower beds etc.

