Appendix R – Client Mobility Assessment Algorithm

Prior to proceeding with the Client Mobility Assessment:

a) Ensure the client is medically safe to move including medical precautions, e.g., hip precautions. Assess client’s height and weight.
b) Assess the client’s pain level and medical devices to ensure they can proceed with a client handling procedure.
c) Ensure environmental conditions and equipment are suitable to perform the task.
d) Ensure the caregivers are trained and competent to perform the tasks.

Assumption
This algorithm has been designed for organizations with a no-lift or minimal-lift policy that prohibits or restricts the use of manual client lifting to emergency or life threatening situations.

Bariatric Clients
Clients with a body mass index (BMI) of greater than 30 may require bariatric equipment, furniture and additional space and assistance from caregiver(s). The BMI is calculated by dividing the client’s weight (kg) by their height (m) squared.

Bariatric Lift
A generic term referring to a lift for clients with a body mass index (BMI) between 30 and 40. (Veterans Health Administration, 2001)

Transfer Procedure
(Weight-Bearing)
- Independent unsupervised
- Independent supervised
- Minimal assistance
- 2-person side-by-side
- 1- or 2-person pivot
- Sit-stand device with 2 caregivers
- Other (e.g., bariatric device)

Mechanical Lift Procedure
(Non-Weight-Bearing)
- Ceiling lift
- Bariatric ceiling lift
- Portable lift
- Portable bariatric lift

At least 2 caregivers are required and the appropriate sling must be used.

Lateral Slide Procedure
(Non-Weight-Bearing)
- Slider board
- Slider sheet
- Roll board
- Air mattress technology
- Other devices including bariatric equipment

At least 2 caregivers are required.