

## Guidelines for Safe Bathing with the use of Bathtub Chair Inserts

### Definitions

- **Bathtub Chair Inserts** are low chair like supportive bases that sit in the bottom of a bath tub. Patients are transferred onto the bath chair insert using a floor or overhead lift. Most bath chair inserts are mesh and support the patient in a slightly reclined position.

### Assessment Considerations (completed by regulated healthcare provider)

- Patient must be assessed for ability and equipment needs. Do not proceed with transfer and contact supervisor if there are changes in patient's ability. The patient may not be appropriate for the use of a bathtub chair insert if:
  - Agitated or has a history of aggressive or unpredictable behavior
  - Unable to understand and respond to instructions to maintain a safe seated position (i.e. making attempts to climb or slide out unsafely)
- The chosen methods of bathing and transfer must be documented in the patient's care plan. Options for transfer method to a bathtub chair insert are (refer to the appropriate Safe Work Procedure):
  - Floor lift (if using a height adjustable tub and floor lift legs are compatible/fit under tub)
  - Overhead track lift

**Note:** One or more healthcare workers (HCW) are required for bathing; however, two may be required to transfer the patient on/off the equipment dependent on the patient's transfer status.

### Considerations for Equipment Use

- The patient's weight should not exceed the safe working limit of the bathtub chair insert.
- Visually inspect the equipment before each use to ensure it is in good working order and that suction cup/rubber feet of the bathtub chair insert are secure to the tub (dry surface).
- Ensure the floor or overhead lift being used to transfer the resident in/out of the mesh bath chair in the tub does not get wet. If using a floor lift, ensure the lift legs can fit under the tub.
- Transfers should never be attempted on slippery surfaces.
- If provided, secure the safety belt to prevent buoyancy & maintain position in the chair.
- In rare circumstances it may be recommended to keep the sling attached during the bathing process to ensure optimal security for the resident and caregiver and/or fast, easy, safe removal of the resident in case of emergency.
- Never leave the patient unattended while using a bathtub chair insert.

### Bathing Considerations

- Always check water temperature prior to bathing patient.
- Wash any hard to reach areas before or after transferring patient onto the bathtub chair insert.
- Bathe the patient using proper body mechanics and/or equipment to avoid over reaching:
  - Use long handled sponge where available.
  - Allow patient to assist washing areas if able (e.g. arms, front of body etc.)
  - Ask patient to lift leg to reduce bending/reaching if able.
  - Use one arm to support your body if over-reaching.
- Begin to dry the patient while seated in the bathtub chair insert. Finish drying and dress patient once transferred back to a receiving surface.

*Please Note: These are guidelines only and should not replace clinical assessment. Please refer to equipment manual for manufacture safety guidelines specific to your equipment.*