

**Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: March 1, 2010
Topic: 8. Occupational Health and Safety	Replaces: New
Subject: 3.10. StairChair	
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PURPOSE

To outline safe workplace process and the safe use of the StairChair to transport patients through narrow hallways and/or up/down narrow multiple landing stairways.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

Rationale for use

The Ferno Washington Model 42 Stair Chair allows transport of patients through narrow hallways and up and down multiple flights of stairs. The stair chair can be rolled and/or carried. Patient movement can be halted at any point without the attendants having to lift and hold the weight of the patient.



Description

The Model 42 Stair Chair is designed for small storage compartments. Its vinyl-coated cover is stain resistant and easy to maintain. The frame is constructed of sturdy, lightweight aluminum. There are non-slip hand grips on all carrying handles, and the handles fold for easy storage. There are three figure 66 quick-release patient restraints. The rear legs have two stationary 4" wheels which allow the chair to be rolled. The chair folds to a compact size for storage, and the leg strap can be used to secure the chair in its closed position.

Specifications

Height:	95 cm, (37 1/4") chair position 61 cm, (24") folded
Depth:	81 cm, (31 3/4") chair position 16cm, (6 1/4") folded
Width:	50cm, (19 1/2")
Weight:	8.2 kg, (18 lbs)
Load Capacity	159 kg, (350 lbs)

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Procedure for Use

Loading

- Unfold the stair chair and lock it into its upright position. Make sure the locking latch is fully engaged at the rear of the seat. Test the chair to ensure that it will not collapse.
- Unfasten all patient restraint straps and place them so that they won't interfere with the patient transfer.
- Place an open sheet over the chair.
- Using the two-rescuer extremity carry, place the patient onto the chair and position them squarely. The patient's buttocks should be as far back on the seat as possible.
- Explain to the patient that it is imperative that they keep their arms and hands inside the sheet at all times. WRAP the sheet snugly around the patient. Tuck in any loose sheet ends
- Secure the patient restraint straps snugly around the patient. Make sure all buckles engage fully and test to make sure they won't come apart.

Rolling

- Explain to the patient that the chair is going to be tipped backwards
- One attendant should grasp the two upper corners of the chair back. The two upper handles may be used instead of grasping the chair frame.
- The second attendant should assist in tilting the chair back until the weight is balanced. Ensure that nothing will catch in the wheels or impede the movement of the chair
- The chair can then be rolled without lifting.

Carrying

- The attendants should grasp the front and rear carrying handles and lift simultaneously. The corner of the chair frame, top and bottom, may be grasped as an alternative.
- On level surfaces, the front attendant may face to the front or rear while carrying the loaded stair chair.
- When carrying the chair on stairs, the front attendant should always face the patient. The attendant at the feet should call out each time a step is taken. Conversely, the attendant at the head should call out each step when ascending.

Precautions

It is very important to explain your actions and detail the process of the move to the patient. They should be continually reassured that you will not let them fall. Ensure that the patient does not reach out for handrails to steady the chair. This could upset the balance of the whole procedure.

For more detailed instructions, please refer to your in-service training, document references and user's manual.

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Storage

- Disengage the chair lock by pressing down on the lock bar. Pull it back while grasping the seat frame and fold it towards the head frame. **CAUTION:** Release the lock bar as folding movement begins in order to avoid pinching your fingers.
- Fold all four handles next to the frame.
- Take the leg restraint strap and secure it around the folded chair. The stair chair can now be stored in the ambulance.
- After each usage it is to be stored safely and according to our existing policy "Securing Equipment (Policy and Procedure G. 6.11, 2004).

Cleaning

The entire chair can be cleaned with soapy water or mild solvents. The chair should then be thoroughly dried. If sterilization is required, disinfect according to "Disinfection of Vehicles and Patient Care Equipment", (Policy & Procedures G.6.2.).

REFERENCE

Ministry of Health, Emergency Services Branch, 1993, *Patient Care Equipment Manual*, The Crown in Right of the Province of Ontario

Emergency Health Services, Occupational Health Services, 1991, *A Lifting Training Program for Emergency Medical Attendant*

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Ergonomics*, Policy & Procedures G.8.5.1.

Ferno, Model 42 Stair Chair w/ ABS Panel, 1993
Found at: http://www.ferno.com/product_detail.aspx?prodID=BC7E2850-040F-480A-A4D3-4752D08C19DB

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Cot Maintenance Program*, Policy and Procedure G. 4.2.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Securing Equipment*, Policy and Procedure G. 8.4.3.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Disinfecting of Vehicles and Patient Care Equipment*, Policy & Procedures G.6.2.