

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: 3.4. Canvas Stretcher	
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PURPOSE

To outline safe workplace process in the use of the canvas stretcher when transporting patients.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

Rationale for use

To lift/ transport patients (who do not require rigid body support) from locations which are not accessible with other adjuncts

Description:

The pole and canvas stretcher is quick and simple to use and it is very light weight. Once loaded, the patient is “cradled” as they are lifted and carried to a main stretcher. The canvas can be left under the patient during transport.

Specifications:

- Poles are 2.5 cm (1”) aluminum tubing
- Poles are 101.5cm (40) long disassembled and 188cm (74”) long attached.
- Rubber handles secured to the ends of each pole
- The canvas is made of 100 % cotton
- Measures 180 cm (71”) long and 66 cm (26’) wide
- There is a sleeve along each longitudinal side to accommodate the assembled poles.

Procedure for Use

1. Load the Patient
 - Unfold the canvas and position it lengthways beside the patient
 - Position the canvas so that the patient’s head will be supported by the canvas
 - Log-roll the patient onto their side and tucked under the patient so that when the patient is rolled back, they are positioned correctly, in the middle, on the canvas.

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- Gently slide the poles into the sleeves of the canvas making sure not to contact the patient while doing so.
 - The pole and canvas stretcher is now ready for use.
2. To Carry the Patient:
- The patient should be encouraged to keep their arms folded across their chest. This reduces pressure points along their sides from their arms and elbows.
 - At stairs, the stretcher should proceed head first. When descending, the stretcher should proceed feet first.
 - The patient should be kept as near horizontal as possible.
3. Placing the patient onto the transporter
- Once on the cot, the poles are to be removed.

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

Storage:

After each usage it is to be stored safely and according to our existing policy "Securing Equipment (Policy and Procedure G. 8.4.3.).

Cleaning:

This device can be laundered with ambulance linen.

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.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Securing Equipment*, 2004, Policy and Procedure G. 8.4.3.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Disinfecting of Vehicles and Patient Care Equipment*, 2004, Policy & Procedures G.6.2.