

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

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| Section: G. Emergency Medical Services | Effective Date: March 1, 2010 |
| Topic: 8. Occupational Health and Safety | Replaces: New |
| Subject: 3.9. Scoop Stretcher | |
| Policy No. G.8.3.9. | Page 1 of 4 |

PURPOSE

To outline safe workplace process and the safe use of the Scoop Stretcher to aid in the lifting and transferring/transporting of patients.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

Rationale for use

The scoop stretcher functions as a lifting, transferring and transporting device:

- Where patient manipulation or difficulty with lifting could cause patient discomfort or worsen the patient's condition.
- For performing extrication through narrow doorways or stairways.
- For lifting a patient from the floor or bed to the stretcher or from the stretcher to the hospital stretcher.

Description

The scoop stretcher is made of an aluminum tubing frame and body panels.



Components

- Frame
- Body panels
- Coupling mechanisms
- Lock-pin levers allowing adjustment of the foot section to four positions.
- Pins to accommodate the quick connect straps

Specifications

- Length, max. 201 cm (79")
- Length, mm. 168 cm (66")
- Length, folded 120 cm (47")
- Width, coupled 43 cm (16.75")
- Depth, folded 9 cm (3.5")
- Weight 9 kg (20 lbs.)
- Maximum load 159 kg (350 lbs.)

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Procedure for Use

- If the stretcher has been stored in the folded position, unfold it and then slide the foot end into the torso section. Push the pins inward to engage the latch lock pins.
- Keep the stretcher halves coupled to ensure equal length.
- Position the stretcher on one side of the patient with the centre of the head panel approximately even with the patient's nose.
- Pull the pins on both sides of the stretcher to disengage the latch lock pins.
- Adjust the foot length to a position where the end coupling will extend beyond the bottom of the patient's feet.
- Push the pins inward to engage the latch lock pins and push and pull on the foot section to ensure that the locks are properly engaged.
- Detach the two halves by depressing the lock lever button on each end coupling and pulling the stretcher halves apart.
- Place your foot between the patient and the stretcher. This will protect the patient from being contacted by the stretcher.
- Place the two halves on either side of the patient.
- Tuck one half under the patient.
- Place the patient's arms on top of the patient as injuries permit
- Join the head end first. This should help decrease patient mobility. Avoid catching the patient's hair.
- Fasten the halves together using the foot or knee to hold the near side against the patient and push/pull the second half towards the first half.
- Hold the patient's clothing tight to prevent skin pinching as the two halves are being pulled together.
- Immobilize the Head and Neck if required.
- An appropriate cervical collar should be applied.
- Place a rolled blanket or two rolled towels on either side of the head to minimize movement of the head and neck.
- Secure the Torso by using a cross strap technique.
- Use the same cross strap technique to secure the pelvis area
- Snug up both of the straps.
- Use triangular bandages or additional straps to secure the legs and feet
- Use horizontal strapping (depending on the patient's size) across the upper thigh, above and below the knees.
- For the feet, use bandages to form a figure of eight and secure to the foot end of the stretcher.
- If the head and neck are to be immobilized, apply adhesive tape/bandage across the forehead and attach it to either side of the scoop.
- Apply a second piece of tape below the chin directly over the cervical collar. Ensure that it does not compromise the patient's airway or

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- aggravate injury to the patient's neck or cervical vertebrae
- Lift the patient onto the appropriate carrying equipment using appropriate lifting techniques.

Precautions

- It is important to have the straps over the patient's shoulders and under the scoops body panels to prevent the patient from being pulled downward on the stretcher.
- Whenever possible, place padding between the device and the patient during application to provide added comfort and reduce the risk of possible complications such as pressure sores (particularly with the elderly).
- When applying the scoop at the scene and debris is present (i.e. small stones, broken glass) ensure that the debris does not get caught between the scoop and the patient.
- When working in an environment with decreased temperatures, attempt to keep the scoop stretcher protected from the cold whenever possible. Aluminum conducts cold quite easily and the patient may experience discomfort when placed in contact with the device.
- Ensure that application of the chest straps does not restrict the patient's breathing.

Storage

When storing the model 65 scoop stretcher, the device can either be extended or folded.

To Fold the Stretcher

- Fully extend the foot end by pulling the pins outward to disengage the latch lock pins and extend until the hinges are completely visible.
- Lift and fold the foot end over the top of the torso section.
- Wrap a strap around the stretcher or use other appropriate means to help prevent the stretcher from separating.

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

Cleaning

The scoop stretcher can be cleaned with soapy water and then thoroughly dried. If further sterilization is required, disinfect according to "Disinfection of Vehicles and Patient Care Equipment", (Policy & Procedures G.6.2.)

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