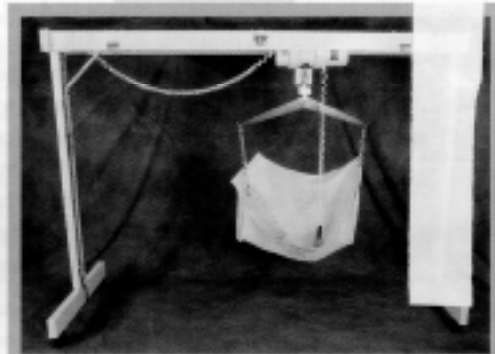


# A LOOK AT Lifts



## Bariatric Needs

The patient lift and transfer system by Wheelchairs of Kansas, Ellis, has a 750-pound capacity designed to enable one caregiver to move the user along a double-channel overhead track. It also has a digital electronic scale and adjusts from 78 to 93 inches in height.

## Help at Home

The Silver-Glide straight-run stairway lift from Access Industries, Grandview, Mo., has a battery system that continually charges so that it will keep operating during a power failure, according to the company. It has padded, fold-up armrests, a cable drive system, a rotating seat and a fold-away footrest.



## Ceiling-Mounted Track Lifts

A sling-like seat is connected to a pulley that runs along a permanent, customized ceiling track. An electric or hydraulic motor raises the patient, who can then be moved, mechanically or manually, along the track. All overhead track lifts provide vertical movement, and some models also feature lateral movement.

## For the Bath

The Bather's Lift by Madera, Calif.-based C.L. Scott Enterprise is battery-operated and works in any standard bathroom, according to the manufacturer. The company says it can be easily used by one caregiver. The device is available in a ceiling- or curtain rod-mounted unit (shown).



## Lifting Little Ones

Designed for children and small adults, the EasyPivot Model EP-80 patient lift by Rand-Scot Inc., Fort Collins, Colo., fits patients of small girth and those as short as 3 feet 6 inches. It weighs about 65 pounds and has a base that adjusts from 25 to 32 inches wide. The unit also has an elevated foot base.



## Free-Standing Overhead Track Lifts

This device is similar to the ceiling-mounted lift, but is portable and less expensive. The horizontal track is supported by two vertical posts, which can be disassembled and moved to other locations. This lift can be used in bathrooms to transfer the user to or from a bath, shower or commode. Although the suspension system and the track can get wet, the overhead motor cannot.

# Lifts

## Sling Seats

**M**anufacturers generally offer several types of seating designs and can customize to a particular size. Ask about optional sling extensions and head support for patients with poor muscle control. Several alternatives to traditional slings are now available, with features designed to reduce the user's risk of developing pressure ulcers. One such model uses a suspension device that comes around the arms and over the legs, so the user stays in a seated position, but his or her buttocks never rest on anything. Newer designs are Y-shaped, which therapists say are easier to remove; some feature cutouts for easier commode use.



## Open-Bottom Option

Barrier Free Lifts, Manassas, Va., manufactures the Diana mobile floor-model patient lift, which is available with a hydraulic pump or an electric, battery-operated lifting motor. The lift's open-bottom sling is designed to allow patients to use the toilet without having to remove the sling.



## A Floor Model

The Hoyer Deluxe Power Lifter from Sunrise Medical Home Healthcare Group, Longmont, Colo., has a reverse-mounted power actuator with a mechanical emergency down lever that is designed to lower the patient in case of power failure. The lift's six-point suspension cradle can be used with either a four-point strap sling or the Classic Hoyer chain-style sling, the company says.

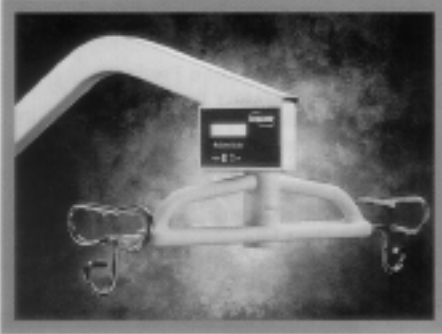
## Ergonomic Design

The Ergolift from BHM Medical, Magog, Quebec, has two-speed operation for vertical movements. The motorized lift has multi-positioned handles, which are close to the caregiver, and an accessible emergency stop button. It has a 360-degree patient rotation capability (even at maximum height) and a 350-pound lifting capacity.



## Hoisting Hardware

The Reliant Plus Digital Scale features attaching hardware that increases the maximum lift height, making the scale more adaptable to patient needs and easier to manage in tight spaces, according to Invacare Corp., Elyria, Ohio. The scale has a 600-pound weight limit and is designed to retrofit to all Invacare Reliant lifts and the 9805 Manual Lift.



## Floor Lifts

The floor lift has a wheeled base and overhead swivel bar with a sling-type seat, usually canvas or nylon, which is placed under the client. He or she can then be pivoted on the device's base at the transfer site or wheeled to another location and then transferred. Floor lifts can usually be easily disassembled.

Hydraulic lifts require the caregiver to manually pump the device to raise the patient. Usually a valve is used to release the hydraulic cylinder and lower the lift at the transfer's conclusion. Some hydraulic pump handles can be rotated from side to side for the caregiver's convenience. Other lifts feature a manually powered crank system with a type of ratchet lock to prevent the lift from freely descending when the crank is released.

Electrically powered lifts can be activated by a foot pedal or hand switch. Battery-powered systems generally cost more, but clients and caregivers claim they offer a smoother ride.



## Staying on Track

The Track-to-Track 100 from SureHands International, Pine Island, N.Y., is a lightweight portable motor designed to click in and out of a ceiling-mounted track. The company says it accommodates the SureHands Body Support, which lifts clients in an upright position and attaches to the motor with a swivel hook.