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## AN OVERVIEW OF TRANSFER EQUIPMENT USED FOR ADAPTIVE SAILING



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## HYDRAULIC POOL LIFTS

These lifts have the advantage of being the most economical of all commercial equipment available, however the crossbars are designed to be used with slings that hook onto them with chains. These slings are not appropriate for sailing transfers. Therefore, when using standard patient slings with these lifts the manufacturer should be consulted about alternative crossbars. In some cases, the range of movement of the lift will be a limiting factor, depending on the height of the dock and/or the height of the sailor. A socket must be installed in the dock. In general, three people are required to do transfers with this type of lift: one person operates the pump while the other two place themselves in front and in back of the sailor in order to position him or her in the seat of the boat.

A variety of brands are available from most major medical equipment suppliers.





## PORTABLE CEILING TRACK LIFTS ON A DAVIT

These are a modified use of the battery-powered lifts used to transfer patients on a ceiling track system. These are designed for indoor use only therefore cannot be used in the rain (unless protected) and have been reported to seize up if used in a saltwater environment. The controls are located on the unit, which allows a sailor who has sufficient hand function to control the up and down movement while two others position the sailor in the boat seat. There are a variety of models available from medical equipment suppliers.

The lift is suspended from a custom-built davit which is secured in a socket in the dock.





## ABLE SAIL / JENNY LIFT

This lift was developed specifically for adaptive sailing programs. It consists of an adjustable-angle davit on which a manually operated winch is mounted and contains a back-up brake system, in the unlikely event that the winch cable breaks. It does require one person to operate the winch and two people to position the sailor in the boat seat.







## TRANSFER BENCHES

These benches are not commercially available but are home made. They allow sailors with good upper body strength to transfer independently by transitioning from standing, or from a wheelchair to the bench and gradually lower oneself onto the dock and then into the boat.



Sailors who are prone to skin breakdown should consider using protection such as this strap-on gel cushion when using transfer benches.

### DISCLAIMER

This document is intended for reference purposes only and is not an endorsement of any of the adaptive sailing products featured. It describes transfer equipment that should only be used by qualified individuals who have received training for its safe use. AbleSail Network Canada expressly disclaims all liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on information contained in or missing from this document. This document is not intended to and should not be relied upon or construed as a legal opinion or legal advice.