

APPENDIX I

Ceiling Lift Coverage Recommendations by Clinical Unit/Area

Determining ceiling lift coverage for clinical units/areas can be accomplished by using Table I-1 and/or by calculation (see second head below).

Determining Ceiling Lift Coverage Using the Table

Table I-1 can be used to make ceiling lift coverage recommendations that stipulate the percentage of patients who should be covered on a particular unit or area. Remember, insufficient coverage will result in increases in the risk of staff and patient injury.

Calculating Ceiling Lift Coverage

(Use only for units/areas assigned ranges of coverage in Table I-1.)

Because the patient characteristics of clinical units/areas vary widely, it is critical to base ceiling lift purchase decisions on these characteristics. Unit ceiling lift coverage is based on the type of unit/area; the dependency levels of the patient/resident population; and the number of private, semi-private, three-bed, or four-bed rooms on the unit.

Note: Patient dependency level is based on physical limitations and dependency. It is not the same as clinical acuity or patient acuity.

Step 1: Determine the average percentage of patients requiring ceiling lift system coverage.

Add the average percentage of totally dependent patients on the unit to the average percentage of patients needing extensive assistance. (Use Table H-1: Physical Dependency Levels of Patient Population in Appendix H to determine the numbers of patients at each dependency level on the unit; the total for the five categories should equal 100 percent.)

Average % totally dependent patients on unit
+ Average % extensive assistance patients on unit
Average % patients requiring ceiling lift coverage

Step 2: Determine the number and configuration of rooms requiring ceiling lift systems per unit.

Use the average percentage of patients requiring ceiling lift coverage to calculate the number of rooms needing ceiling lifts:

For units w/ only private patient rooms:

Number of patients
x Average % patients requiring ceiling lifts
Number of private patient rooms with ceiling lifts

For units with only semi-private rooms:

Number of patients divided by 2
x Average % patients requiring ceiling lifts
Number of semi-private patient rooms with ceiling lifts

For units with a mix of room configurations:

For cost-effectiveness in existing construction, and if appropriate for the unit, begin calculations with ceiling lifts placed in most or all larger wards (three- and four-bed wards), then as appropriate in smaller rooms (private and semi-private).

Example: This sample calculation is for a medical/surgical unit that accommodates 30 patients and has four private rooms, 10 semi-private rooms, and two three-bed rooms. Approximately 70 percent of the patients on the unit will require the use of ceiling lifts. Therefore, the unit should have coverage for 21 patients (70 percent x 30 patients). For cost-effectiveness, and if appropriate for unit needs, ceiling lift coverage may be as follows: ceiling lifts in two three-bed rooms (covering 6 patients), seven semi-private rooms (covering 14 patients), and one private room (covering one patient) in order to have ceiling lift coverage for 21, or 70 percent, of the patients.

Table I-1: Ceiling Lift Coverage Recommendations by Clinical Unit/Area
(Based on Veterans Health Administration patient populations)

CLINICAL UNIT/AREA	CEILING LIFT PATIENT/BED COVERAGE	PREFERRED TRACK CONFIGURATION
Medical/surgical unit	50–100%*	Traverse
Post-surgical unit <i>Provide one supine sling and hanger bar system for unit.</i>	50–100%*	Traverse
Rehab unit <i>Consider installing straight track down hallway for ambulating patients.</i> <i>Provide one supine sling and hanger bar system for unit.</i>	50–100%* <i>(If unit is primarily neuro rehab, provide a minimum of 70% coverage.)</i> <i>(For new construction or rooms large enough for ambulation within rooms, provide 100% coverage to assist in gait training, etc.)</i>	Traverse
MICU	100%	Traverse
SICU	100%	Traverse
CCU	50%	Traverse or straight
ICU <i>(Combined MICU/SICU/CCU)</i>	100%	Traverse
Nursing home/long-term care	70–100%* <i>(Less coverage may be provided for primarily dementia units.)</i>	Traverse <i>(Into bathroom)</i>
Hemodialysis <i>(Ceiling lift coverage is needed over areas where lateral transfers from stretchers or inpatient beds to dialysis beds occur.)</i>	50–100%*	Straight or traverse <i>(One straight track over several bays in a row would be appropriate.)</i>
Radiology (X-ray, CT, etc.) <i>(Overhead/ceiling lift system must be compatible with ceiling-mounted radiological equipment.</i> <i>Careful coordination is required to avoid conflicts between ceiling lift tracks and gantries in radiology rooms with traverse ceiling-mounted equipment.)</i>	50%	Traverse or straight
MRI	100%	Straight <i>(Located in adjacent MRI patient transfer area)</i>
Nuclear medicine	50%	
Procedure areas <i>(GI, cystoscopy, etc.)</i>	100%	100% <i>(Positioned as needed)</i>
Cath lab	100%	Traverse or straight
PACU	100%	Straight <i>(If possible, extended over all beds in a row using one lift system per row)</i>

CLINICAL UNIT/AREA	CEILING LIFT PATIENT/BED COVERAGE	PREFERRED TRACK CONFIGURATION
Operating room (Ceiling- or wall-mounted equipment in ORs requires careful coordination between lift tracks, traversing lift motors, and other equipment suspended from or mounted on ceilings and walls.)	100%	Traverse
Physical therapy clinics	100%	<i>Preferred design:</i> Traverse system covering the entire area possibly using two or more motors simultaneously (on the parallel bars and at any treatment tables) <i>Alternate design:</i> Straight track installed over parallel bars, traverse track system covering treatment tables and activity areas
Spinal cord injury	100%	Traverse into bathroom
Outpatient SCI clinic exam/treatment rooms	100%	Traverse
Outpatient/primary care clinics	Depending on patient population, one or more regular and/or one expanded capacity/bariatric lift	Traverse
Emergency department Urgent care exam rooms <i>Provide one supine sling and hanger bar system for unit.</i>	50–100%*	<i>Preferred design:</i> Traverse over multiple bays in a row or in private rooms <i>Alternate design:</i> Straight track over several bays in a row or in private rooms
Ambulance bay	Depending on patient population, one regular or one expanded capacity/bariatric lift under canopy in ambulance bay	Traverse (Ensure proper coordination of ceiling lift track with entrance doorways.)
Dental	Depending on patient population, one regular and/or one expanded capacity/bariatric lift	Straight or traverse
Pediatrics	20%	Traverse
Morgue (Expanded capacity lift with minimum weight capacity of 600 lbs. or greater depending on patient population characteristics. Include supine lift frame in purchase.)	100%	Traverse or straight (Lift system should be able to assist in inserting and extracting trays into cooler as well as lifting and moving bodies into and within autopsy suite.)
Nurse training area	One	Straight

*For those clinical units/areas with a range for required lifts (e.g., 30–100 percent), determine coverage using patient characteristics as instructed in the directions above the table.