

Bathing Procedure – Long or Short Tubs

Instructions

Assess client: (If you are a peer resource team or bath team member or Home Health clinician).

Assess client using a decision support tool (e.g. Bathing Assessment Tool) to determine the most appropriate bathing option.

Prior to Bathing:

Carry out **Point-of-Care Risk Assessment**/Screening to ensure that it is safe to proceed with the bathing method/transfer identified on the care plan. If not, notify your supervisor.

Several different options exist for transferring and supporting clients while bathing, for example:

Long tub:

- ArjoHuntleigh “Miranti” or “Bolero” hygiene lift
- ArjoHuntleigh “Calypso” or “Alenti” hygiene chairs
- Ceiling track lift combined with an adjustable mesh chair (affixed to bottom of tub with a suction cup base)

Short tub/Century tub:

- ArjoHuntleigh “Calypso” or “Alenti” hygiene chairs or attached Century tub chair

When using a tub chair – attach all available seat belts, e.g. hip and/or chest strap.



The ArjoHuntleigh “Bolero” hygiene lift is pictured above with a long tub.

Safety Points

Optimally, if the appropriate equipment is available, it is recommended that the entire process of **undressing / bathing / dressing** is carried out in the bathing room to minimize client transport during the process.

It is **not** advisable to transport clients from bedroom to bathing room utilizing the tub/bath chairs or stretchers.

Clients should be transported from bedroom to bathing room in their regular transport chairs (wheelchairs, broda chairs, etc.).

Refer to [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#). It is an observation of the client’s physical ability and willingness to carry out the task, as well as an observation of the environment and your own readiness.

When transferring client on a hygiene chair or hygiene lift, ensure handles are at a comfortable height for the care giver. Ensure that the client’s handle is lowered also.

Using a sling as the only device supporting the client in sitting during bathing is **not** an acceptable option. An appropriate supportive device must be used.

Instructions

Safety Points

If using a ceiling track lift:
Universal quilted sling is the safest sling option.

Hygiene sling should only be used if the client is able to keep their elbows tucked against their sides and have adequate shoulder strength.

Transfer into tub:
Ensure that the tub is lowered to a level that the client can safely clear the lip of the tub when being transferred.

If a ceiling track lift is used to transfer the client into the tub, the sling must remain attached to the carry bar during the bathing process.

Bathing:
Raise the tub to an appropriate work height for the care giver.

Walk around the tub to wash and provide care on each side of the client.

Transfer out & Dressing:
Lower tub for proper clearance.

Transfer client to a dressing table or a towel-lined wheelchair. Pat them dry prior to seating them in the chair.

Remove wet sling if applicable.

If dressing table is not available, transport client to their room to dress on his/her height-adjustable bed.

Dress client – Refer to [Dressing Assessment](#) and information regarding adaptive clothing on InsideNet.



The ArjoHuntleigh “Alenti” hygiene chair is pictured above with a long tub.

Mesh Universal slings are **not** recommended as they can cause significant discomfort to the client along the edges of the leg sections.

Do not manually lift the client’s legs over the lip of the tub as this may put you at risk of injury.

Do not reach across the client to wash on the opposite side as this will put you at risk in awkward postures.

Dressing table should be height-adjustable to minimize awkward postures.

Use long-handled brushes to clean the tub after client use.