

1.5m EXTERNAL PLATFORM LIFT (rising vertically up to 1.5 metres) Information Sheet for EMS Assessors

The following information provides design/technical points, relevant aspects of Ministry of Health EMS funding and clinical considerations to think about during the assessment and modification process.

The EMS Assessor's role is to ensure that the person, family/whanau and caregivers are fully informed. This can be done either by providing the information themselves, or by directing the equipment supplier and/or List Contractor/Builder to assist with technical or installation details.

1.5m External Platform Lift

1. Electric hydraulic - external power supply

- Maximum lifting capacity either 230 kg, 340kg or 500kg
- Battery operated, charged from mains supply
- Cause a minimal increase in power costs
- Key and push button to operate. Two keys are supplied, so the person needs to ensure that they keep the spare key in a safe place.

2. One way switch - meaning it can only be operated from the last position it was left in.

3. Check what features are standard, or optional. Optional features such as a longer platform size, remote control, call station (to call the lift from the upper or lower position) will need to be specified as an additional need.

4. A 500kg lift is more suitable for a power wheelchair user.

Care, Use and Maintenance

1. It is important that everyone using the lift understands how to use it safely.

2. A 1.5m lift requires regular sweeping and washing to retain the slip resistant properties

3. Lifts exposed to weather conditions may need extra maintenance and cleaning to ensure safety.



4. A 1.5m lift is a mechanical item and needs to be protected from tampering and/or vandalism.
5. Check with the EMS Provider regarding ownership. Where the 1.5m lift becomes the home owner's property. All repairs, services, maintenance, replacement and removal of the 1.5m lift become the responsibility of the home owner. A maintenance checklist and programme will be provided by the 1.5m lift Supplier/Installer.

Design/Technical Points about a 1.5m Lift

1. Has a standard platform size 1000mm x1200mm which rises 1.5m vertically from the ground
2. Has a safety gate/barrier arm and leader ramp which operates automatically
3. The lift may have either a right or left hand operating control
4. Is made of galvanized steel and designed for outdoor use, it can reflect the sun off the metal and cause glare
5. Requires a level landing at the top and bottom (1200mm x 1200mm minimum), separate to the lift itself, so the person can enter and exit the lift safely. A larger landing may be required if the design includes a 90° turn.
6. The top landing will require a kerb and/or a hand rail as it is over 1metre from the ground, and requires a building consent. The top landing will provide level access at the doorway, however a small threshold ramp may be required on the inside of the doorway to provide continuous level access.
7. The bottom landing must be able to be seen clearly to ensure the person can enter and exit the ramp safely, (e.g.) the landing should not finish directly onto a driveway
8. The lift platform must be clear of any obstructions that may be dangerous for people using the lift (e.g.) an opening window, water tap, gully trap, drains or pipes etc.
9. Installation requires a level concrete pad which the lift is bolted to for stability. It also requires construction of landings and may require changes to paths. A concrete path may be constructed from the entry to the lift to the nearest path or parking area. When the lift is removed the concrete pad, landings or any changes that were made to paths will remain in place, and be the home owner's responsibility to remove should they wish.
10. Sometimes a safety gate needs to be fitted to the top landing to prevent accidents when the lift is in the 'down position'.

When Considering Installation of a 1.5m Lift think about:

1. Which entrance is the most practical and cost effective entrance to modify, things like:



- the least number of or design of the steps
- the most commonly used entrance to where a vehicle can be parked
- any environmental features such as the slope of the land.

2. The options for entering and exiting the lift:

- straight through access
- a different direction for entry and exit on the lift, requiring the person to turn 90 degrees on the lift

3. The requirements that will influence the type of 1.5m lift that could be used such as:

- the weight of the mobility equipment the person uses (e.g.) a 500kg lifting capacity for a power wheelchair
- the size and features of the mobility equipment the person uses. Allow for length of chair with footplates plus the overhang of the persons foot on the footplate. Consider the impact of elevating legrests, tilt'in'space and alternative power wheelchair driving functions.
- the height of the push handles on the wheelchair in relation to the position of the safety arm when it is lowered
- the number of people using the lift at the same time eg wheelchair user plus carer
- the need to change direction while on the lift platform
- sufficient 'head room' at the highest point of lift rise (for all entrance users)
- who will operate the lift and how it will be operated. Consider the person's hand function, their ability to move forward in a wheelchair and balance to use the controls, their vision and cognition.

4. Note: To ensure a match is achieved between the person's needs and the features required, you will need to specify the:

- platform size,
- any operating requirements – keys, switches, remote, call stations
- which side the control will be on (ie from ground level entry to the lift)
- lifting capacity.

5. If a Consultant is required to assist with design features of the lift where it is difficult to



establish a match between the needs and the features of the lift required. A consultant may be required to work out what can be achieved and the use of a consultant needs to be approved by the EMS Provider. Any consultant fees and installation costs are included in the amount for the purposes of Income and Asset testing

6. The impact of the installation on access to existing steps and whether ambulant users will need to use the lift or another entrance. Generally, where space is available, a new set of steps is included, adjacent to the lift, as part of the design if the existing steps cannot be used if they are being covered by the lift.
7. Safety for children and pets in relation to moving parts and spaces under the Lift platform.
8. If the 1.5m lift can be seen from the road, check if the person has any concerns regarding security.

Ministry of Health EMS Funding Considerations:

1. Funding is only available once for the same type of modification, therefore the modification recommended needs to meet the person's needs now and in the long term. The person will need to be fully informed and agree that in accepting funding towards the access modification in this home they will not be eligible for funding for the same type of modification again in this or any other home.
2. It is helpful to understand from an EMS perspective when funding is being sought for modifying access to the home only (such as a 1.5m lift) consideration must also be given to the suitability of the inside of the home to meet the needs of the person now or in the long term (next 2 – 3 years):
 - Where potential internal modifications are:
 - Non-complex – this is a straight forward situation
 - Complex (i.e. extensive internal modifications required to make it suitable) you will need to talk about this with the EMS Provider and the person to consider carefully if this home is suitable to meet their long term needs.
3. It is helpful to understand the difference between a housing modification vs. equipment vs. housing equipment:
 - A housing modification is a permanent / fixed alteration to the home. The housing modification becomes the home owner's property.
 - Equipment which is portable (able to be easily picked up and moved) and is not fixed to the home (and is applied for via an Equipment Application).
 - Equipment included in a housing modification is an item that is fixed to the home.



4. Housing equipment is equipment that is included in a housing modification that is removable and able to be refurbished for reissue to another person. The use of reissue housing equipment provides considerable savings to the Ministry of Health EMS budget.
5. Note: Generally housing equipment includes: 1m low rise platform lifts and modular ramps. The EMS Provider identifies if the equipment requested in the housing modification application is considered as 'housing equipment' and will remain the property of the Ministry of Health or becomes the property of the home owner. Check for equipment such as stair chair lifts, stair platform lifts, 1.5m lifts, multi-floor lifts, ceiling track hoists, bidets, shower beds etc.
6. Ministry of Health EMS funding can only cover one entrance to the home.
7. Ministry of Health EMS funding is not available to provide covered protection from the weather. The cost of this will be the responsibility of the home owner.
8. The 1.5m lift that is most commonly used by the EMS Providers is an electric lift.
9. The full as new cost of a 1.5m lift plus the installation costs (and any consent costs required) means that the 1.5m lift is likely to cost over \$15,000.00 including GST. In these circumstances:
 - The criteria of a maximum \$15,000.00 including GST threshold for access modification into and between levels of the home will apply and a Cost Contribution process is required.
 - The full cost of the lift, plus installation and consent costs will be included in the amount that is forwarded to Work and Income for an Income and Asset test.
 - The 1.5m lift becomes the property of the home owner. All repairs, servicing, maintenance, replacement or removal is the responsibility of the home owner.

