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Development and Evaluation of a Model Ceiling Lift Program for Home and Community Care in BC

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Mechanical lifting devices, such as ceiling lifts, which have been shown to reduce risk of injury to health care workers, are more often found in acute and long term care facilities than in clients' homes. Presently, most of the available lift devices are prohibitively expensive and are often inappropriately designed for home use. Implementing similar devices in the home environment is complex and the barriers and opportunities to implement them are not well understood. To address this challenge, researchers developed a model ceiling lift program for home and community care (HCC) in BC.

The goal of the model is to allow equal application of a no-lift policy for both smaller independent HCC agencies and health authority amalgamated agencies, provide access of lift equipment to everyone who needs a lift in BC, and outline options for provincial government support.

A comprehensive systematic literature review identified over 40 issues related to the access and adoption of ceiling lifts in the home environment. The issues reflect on knowledge transfer and communication, cultural and demographic differences, funding availability, operations, and geography, and were identified from the perspective of front-line healthcare workers, clients, occupational therapists, and the agency.

An interrelationship diagram analysis determined which issues were likely driving or influencing the current state of the system, and which issues were more likely outcomes of the system. Program elements were developed to specifically address the challenges identified in the issues analysis. These included standardized tools and procedures, readily available resources, education and training, communication strategies, and funding options. Stakeholders throughout the province provided feedback on the elements. The feedback was used to identify program priorities. The final structure of the program will be presented at the conference.