



BENEFITS OF EARLY UPRIGHT MOBILITY

Total Lift Bed tilting best practices

Compilation of best practices gathered from Total Lift™ Bed users

Total Lift Bed: Mobility at the push of a button

Using only one or two caregivers, the Total Lift Bed™ can progressively move patients to a full standing and weight-bearing position to aid rehabilitation early in the acute phase of critical illness. Without leaving the bed, patients who need a graded transition from bedrest to supporting their full body weight, can be progressively moved to the standing position. As the bed tilts, the change in weight-bearing achieved by the patient is displayed on the foot lift footboard. This visual feedback helps caregivers to monitor progress, and set milestones against rehabilitation and mobility objectives.



Importance of early mobilization

- Early Mobilization is safe and feasible^{1,2}
- *Total Lift Bed* tilting is safe and feasible in the ICU for mechanically ventilated patients³
- Early intervention is important (within the first 48-72 hours of admission) and as soon as the life-threatening event has been stabilized^{4,5}
- Little and often may be more beneficial than "more therapy time in structured therapy sessions"^{6,7}
- Maintain normal homeostasis regulation with frequent position changes⁷
- Tilting improves consciousness⁸
- Achieving functional mobility reduces length of stay⁹
- Safe patient handling and mobility technology reduces staff injuries¹⁰



**Early upright
mobility:
Safe, early
and often**



Ambition of mobility

The ultimate goal is to restore the highest level of function along with independent transfers, so as many patients as possible can return to their best quality of life. In addition to bed-level mobility and frequent sitting position, orientation to an upright position and weight-bearing should be introduced as soon as the patient is able to medically tolerate it.

Respiratory

Choosing your patients: Pneumonia and respiratory conditions

We know that immobility increases the risk of developing or worsening pneumonia.

Tidal volume

This is the volume of air exchanged during normal breathing and is typically around 500 mL (6-8 mL/Kg). In a supine position, the weight of the body restricts the free movement of the rib cage, reducing tidal volume and increasing the work of breathing.

Residual volume

This is the air remaining in the lungs after a full forced breath out and is typically around 1.5 L (20-25 mL/kg). The residual volume of the lungs drops in bedridden

patients due to shifting of internal abdominal organs toward the thorax, increased pressure of the heart on lung tissue and increased central fluid shift, potentially increasing the risk of portions of the lung collapsing.

FVC and FEV1

Forced vital capacity (FVC) is the amount of air that can be forced out of the lungs after a maximum intake of breath. Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1) is the volume of gas expired in the first second during forced a vital capacity maneuver and is the most sensitive index of lung function.

A repeated measure ANOVA-multiple comparison study^{11,12} showed that FVC and FEV1 values in standing were significantly higher than supine, sitting, and right and left lateral positions.

Aim to begin little and often. At least 4-5 times per day, for 5-15 minutes minimum each tilt. The number of times per day is more important than the time spent in the tilting position.





Day 1

Step 1

Check with the medical team that the patient meets the criteria to begin tilting (tilting assessment).

Step 2

Secure the patient using the straps across the patient's knees, thighs and chest.

Step 3

Make sure the lines and drains are secure and free to move as the bed tilts.

Step 4

Begin tilting gradually to 20°. Monitor patient's vital signs to ensure they are tolerating the change in position. If any vital signs fall outside the numbers shown to be safe in the tilting assessment, lower patient back to the angle where the numbers are within the safe range and the patient is tolerating the position. If there are any concerns, check with the patient's doctor.

Step 5

If the patient tolerates 20° of tilt for 5 minutes, progress gradually to 25°, assess again to make sure the patient is tolerating the position and if all vital signs are good, tilt to 30°. Remain there for up to 15 minutes, checking the vital signs and the patient's tolerance.

Step 6

After 15 minutes, return the patient to horizontal position, with the head of bed elevated or to chair position.

Step 7

Repeat 4-5 times as long as the patient is tolerating the position and vitals are remaining stable.

Safe vital signs are as follows:^{1,2}

Patient should be able to respond to verbal stimulus 3-4 times by squeezing your hand or other form of communication to let you know they have awareness and can feel what is happening.

- SpO₂ ≥90%
- Systolic blood pressure >90 and <200 mmHg while receiving no support or low level support. MAP within target range with no support or low level support
- Heart rate <160 bpm at rest*
- Respiratory rate ≤30 pm at rest*
- Pain level is acceptable
- No excessive fatigue or anxiety

* Vital signs limitations may vary by patient

Day 2 & beyond

Repeat steps 1-4 from day 1

Step 5

Tilt gradually to 30°. If the patient tolerates 30° without any problems, increase tilt angle to 35°, then 40°. Watch the patient and monitors to ensure the patient is tolerating it and vital signs are still in a safe range. Assess at 40° for 2-3 minutes.

Step 6

Continue increasing 5° at a time, or slower if the patient needs to go more slowly, progressing each time until the patient achieves full standing at 82°. Continually checking to make sure vital signs are in safe limits and watch the patient to make sure they are not in too much pain or discomfort and are still positioned comfortably.

Step 7

Repeat 4-5 times per day for up to 15 minutes each time at the maximum angle tolerated by the patient.

Keep in mind that although the aim is to stand and walk, and angles over 60° have increasing benefits for neurological status, respiratory function, and bowel and bladder function, frequent standing throughout the day is more important than a higher angle once per day. Aim to increase patient tolerance to increasingly upright angles by increasing times, but keep the frequency throughout the day to at least 4-5 times.

- Nurses can incorporate multiple vertical tilts during their daily patient care
- Physical therapy can do at least one tilt per day during therapy activities
- Occupational therapy can do one tilt per day during OT treatment

The example below can be used to document how well the patient can tolerate their treatment.

Goal is to achieve standing (82°) or tilt to patient tolerance as long as the patient's vital signs are stable.

Tilt 20°: Assess 2-3 minutes, then progress in 5° increments.

Achieved 82° with stable vital signs and good tolerance

Treatment angle (if different from maximum angle): _____ for _____ minutes

Stopped at _____ degrees due to: (Check all that apply below)

- SpO₂ dropped below 90%
- Systolic blood pressure <90 or >200 mmHg
- Mean arterial pressure <65 or >110 mmHg less than lower limit of target range
- Heart rate >120 bpm
- Respiratory rate ≤30 pm
- Unacceptable pain level
- Excessive fatigue or anxiety
- Other:

Parameters based on protocol: Bailey P, Thomsen GE, Spuhler VJ, Blair R, Jewkes J, Bezdjian L, Veale K, Rodriguez L, Hopkins RO. Early activity is feasible and safe in respiratory failure patients. *Crit Care Med.* 2007;35:139-145.



Using the chair position

In between tilts and rest periods, the patient should use the chair position to sit up and bear weight on their feet using the footboard with the assistance of the nursing staff.

When to take the patient off the *Total Lift Bed*:

1. When the patient is able to sit up over the edge of the bed and stand with minimum assistance, they should progress to a regular bed and continue mobility progression with staff.
2. When the patient is able to march in place and shift their weight from side to side in 60° of tilt, reassess standing at edge of bed with caregivers, unless there are still reasons identified by the medical team that it is still unsafe for the patient to stand unsupported.
3. When the patient can mobilize frequently throughout the day safely without the bed, consider if they will get up and stand at least 3 times per day and sit at least 3 times per day if they are in a regular bed.

Sample tilting tracker

PATIENT NAME: _____ ROOM: _____ DATE: _____

WEIGHT-BEARING %: _____ PRECAUTIONS: _____

TILT #	ANGLE ACHIEVED	WEIGHT-BEARING	TIME TILTED	NOTES FOR PT	NOTES FOR DR
1					
2					
3					
4					

Ideas to incorporate tilting into nursing care

Incorporating tilting into nursing care is critical so that you can make it feasible to achieve as many tilts as possible daily. When giving medications, the nursing staff can tilt the patient.

- When family members visit, tilt the patient up to greet the family and be upright while interacting with them
- When the doctor on medical rounds comes to assess how the patient is doing, tilt up so the patient can be more alert and interact at eye level
- When you're doing wound dressings, which often make it easier because of height and angle
- When doing activities of daily living with the patient

Other patient populations who will benefit from tilting

1. Patients who are sedated. Traditionally, these patients would not be mobilized, but tilting is safe and feasible (Qutab and Morris 2015), and may improve consciousness (Toccolini, 2015).
2. If patient has a femoral catheter, and is not mobilized due to concerns about bending at the hip and moving the catheter, tilting can achieve progressive tolerance to upright orientation without bending at the hip.
3. If the patient has insufficient abdominal strength/multiple surgeries and is prohibited from using abdominal muscles, *Total Lift Bed* supports the patient from behind, rather than the patient pulling up (or being pulled up) from their arms.
4. Patients with spinal precautions for whom bending and twisting to get up in the traditional manner is deemed unsafe by the medical team. The *Total Lift Bed* assists by helping them to stand without bending at the waist or flexing/potentially twisting the spine.
5. If the patient cannot tolerate fast changes in position, they can be gradually tilted a few degrees at a time.

To see the Total Lift Bed in use, please visit Arjo YouTube channel.



www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHsfhjMWAXwoaOxANdt1l4YHvvlOkf66Y

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