



Adult Social Care

Practice Guidance for the Use of Gantry Hoists

Version 2

Version: 2 FOI Status: Public	Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care Practice Guidance for the Use of Gantry Hoists	Originally Issued: January 2018 V2 Issued: December 2022 Review Due: December 2024 Author: Stephanie Huddleston
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This guidance will be reviewed on a regular basis – if you would like to make any comments, amendments, additions etc. please email: asch.adultcare.policy@derbyshire.gov.uk

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1. Introduction

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) have been installing gantry hoist systems for many years. Historically, these were arranged directly with equipment providers and funded through the corporate major adaptations budget whilst ongoing maintenance and servicing was provided by DCC Property Services.

In recent years, the purchased stock that was in circulation was transferred to [Medequip](#) to improve DCC's ability to refurbish and re-site in the most cost-effective way. Medequip now provide installation, maintenance and 6 monthly Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 ([LOLER](#)) testing to all items on site.

1.1 Types of Gantries

Provision of pressure fit models have ceased as Derbyshire County Council have deemed them inherently unstable due to excessive loading, rendering them unfit for domestic use. The freestanding model is considered to be a lower risk solution and suitable in most domestic environments and is the only version of gantry now available in Derbyshire.

1.2 Gantry Use

Gantry systems are often used to test the concept of single-handed care or as a temporary measure whilst awaiting installation of a fixed ceiling track hoist. They are also used to meet the needs of people with life limiting illnesses or for those with restricted space in their property. Derbyshire's intention is for gantry hoists to be provided as a temporary loan solution to enable units to be re-cycled, although it is acknowledged that there are rare cases where a fixed solution may not be structurally feasible or reasonably practical. The progression to a fixed solution needs to be as timely as possible. Decisions over long term use of the gantry must be made in consultation with area service managers with a clear case note detailing the rationale for this decision and be subject to regular review as appropriate.

2. Assessment

Assessments for gantry hoists must be undertaken by appropriately trained and competent personnel. To support your assessment and to ensure all environmental risk factors have been considered, you are required to complete a pre-installation environmental checklist ([see Appendix 3](#)) for use with the contract gantry (currently the Handicare Castor – see [Appendix 1](#)) or appropriate alternative. Medequip technicians will refer to this form in addition to attendance of the prescriber at the property, to aid accurate and safe installation. Contact your service leads and the Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES) Team if the contract gantry is not suitable. If you require multiple gantry systems, one checklist per gantry hoist is required. This form is available on the TCES system for both Social Care and Health prescribing staff ([see Appendix 3](#)). In all instances, the pre-installation checklist will be completed and uploaded into TCES to enable the order to be processed. This document is used in conjunction with the DIAG Personal Handling Risk Assessment on MOSAIC, (including Specific Environmental Assessment – section 13). There are also diagram template tools available on the TCES product pages to inform Medequip of the required positioning of your gantry ([see Appendix 2](#)).

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3. Pre-Installation Environmental Checklist

3.1 Section one - Personal details:

This section highlights the person's name, address, DOB and Mosaic pin number/NHS number. This section also details the prescribers name and contacts details and date of assessment.

3.2 Section two – The gantry and environment:

What is the person's weight? (Question 1)

An up-to-date weight is required for safe use of the gantry to ensure the lift is within the safe working load and that the floor is not overloaded. The Castor freestanding gantry hoist is deemed safe without any structural engineer input (with the exception of unsafe flooring) for a person up to 160kg (25 stone). If there is confirmation of a concrete floor at ground level, this could potentially be raised to the person weight limit of the pod (subject to Structural Engineer approval) which is 200Kg. It may be possible to exceed this weight limit depending on structural advice.

Whereabouts is the gantry to be situated in the property? (Question 2)

Gantry hoists can be installed either downstairs or upstairs providing the floor is safe (see flooring guidance below). Most gantry hoists are installed downstairs but there are no definitive guidance. Assessors should be emphasising a downstairs installation unless a ceiling track hoist has been agreed to access upstairs bathing facilities. However, structural considerations are needed if the room is situated in a roof space such as a loft conversion or Dorma style bungalow – in such cases a referral to Property Services for further assessment is required prior to installation. Please state in the comments section which room/s the gantry hoist is planning to be installed in.

What type of flooring is in the room where the freestanding gantry hoist is to be installed? (Question 3)

The gantry hoist needs to be fitted on a flat even surface; therefore the flooring type and condition is important. This information may be obtained through a visual inspection or directly from the client/family. Concrete floors are generally considered safe and adequate, providing the floor is level.

If the floor is wooden or you are not certain of the floor type, are there concerns about the condition of the floor e.g., soft/spongy areas on the floor (common places include the sides of chimney breasts or by the main entrance doors)? (Question 4)

Some examples of when the floor may be of concern might be if there is excessive spring in the floor or if there are any soft spongy areas. Also, if ornaments vibrate when you walk past then this might indicate that the floor is structurally compromised. If so or in doubt, contact Chesterfield Borough Council directly to refer to a Structural Engineer (Robert Moss – Robert.moss@chesterfield.gov.uk (emails should be sent by secure email), 01246 959722 or 07964 112217)).

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Is there a pronounced unevenness, slope or hump in the floor where the gantry feet need to be positioned? (Question 5)

The gantry hoist needs to be fitted on a flat even surface to ensure the feet are in contact with the floor. If this isn't possible an alternative option must be sought, such as locating the gantry in another part of the room or using an alternative room. If unsure, assessors are to seek guidance from their seniors and / or property services.

Consider the positioning of the gantry hoist. Is there adequate space to accommodate the track and transfer area? (Question 6)

Consider whether there is enough space to facilitate a safe transfer taking into account other equipment such as a specialist chair, wheelchair or commode. Assessors may need to consider an alternative space or furniture re-location. The Castor gantry track is available on contract in 2.4 or 3 metre lengths.

The lift and its travel should always take place directly under the track to prevent any non-vertical lifting. Consider the ceiling height (see appendix 1 for Handicare Castor dimensions or check manufacturers guidance for height adjustability).

Pick-up points (also referred to as lifting points, the point at which the spreader bar is lowered down to on the person / equipment) are locations around the room where the hoist will need to pass over. This could be something like a bed or chair. The gantry hoist track should facilitate a safe, simple transfer on and off these items, giving the carer and the user the easiest option possible.

The lifting point should be positioned centrally over the object or area that you will be accessing. These lifting points should be measured to ensure that the individual has the best transfer possible. The precise lifting point must be reviewed at the point of installation. The lifting pod and tape will become damaged if there is poor alignment.

For bed transfers, the track should be positioned so that it runs across the bed. The exact pick-up point should be based on individual measurement but is usually in the region of 850mm – 1000mm from the front of the bed head (see diagram A). Do not install the gantry at an angle to the bed (see diagram B). It is more likely to damage the hoist pod and tape, as it requires a much more accurate lift point.

Both diagram A and B below show the view from above the bed

Diagram A

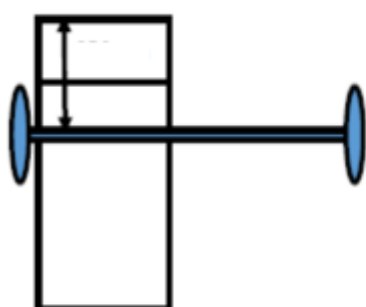
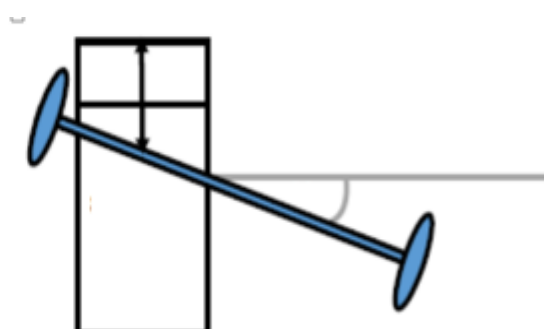


Diagram B



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Consider the Footprint of the gantry (Question 7).

Note that the dimension of each footprint on the castor gantry is 120cm x 13cm (see diagram in appendix 1). Consider where in the room these will be positioned and whether they are likely to obstruct access in and around the room. Notable areas to consider will be doorways, near to openings cupboards/wardrobes. You may need to consider the repositioning of bedroom or lounge furniture to maximise space and minimise tripping hazards for safe use.

4. Other Considerations

4.1 Post-installation check:

Medequip technicians will complete a post-installation checklist to ensure the gantry hoist is safely installed and fit for use.

4.2 Mental capacity

Consider the mental capacity of the client to understand and consent to the safe use of the gantry hoist and also those of any informal carers who may use the gantry or the room where the gantry is situated.

4.3 Safe use of the gantry:

Furniture or other items should not be leant up against the gantry. The gantry uprights must not be pulled on directly by anyone as an aide to assist with rolling, turning in bed or moving up and down the bed.

Consider the electrical charging points and include these on the gantry hoist diagram, as part of the pre-installation documentation. (See appendix 2 to review details that prescribers also need to consider and include on the diagram).

If the gantry is going to be a permanent method of transfer because a fixed gantry is not feasible or reasonably practical then consider an appropriate level of review. For example, the care coordinator may consider as part of the clients' annual review or closer monitoring by the prescriber may be needed, for example if the client is nearing the safe weight limit upon installation. Changes to the environment need to be considered.

The person and their family should be advised that the gantry should not be moved unless a further assessment has been completed by an appropriately trained assessor and an appropriate referral has been made to Medequip to arrange for a relocation. If the person or their family has moved the gantry then it should not be used until an assessment has been completed and an inspection has taken place by a Medequip technician.

4.4 How to order:

The Castor gantry system is available to both health and social care staff on the Medequip contract via the TCES system. A heavy-duty pod and spreader bar (up to 300kg) are available to fit to the contract gantry frame. If required, they are subject to the normal non-contract specials process.

The pre-installation environmental checklist and diagram template can be found on the TCES

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product page (MOB399). Once completed, these documents must be sent to the senior practitioner occupational therapist (OT) for review in the first instance. Prescribers will be advised when to upload the documentation onto the TCES system to enable the order to be processed. Whilst we will continue to support staff with prescription of the gantry hoist at present, we will be working towards staff being independent with this process.

4.5 Referrals to Property Services for structural engineer input

To refer for a structural engineer you will need to contact Chesterfield Borough Council directly (Robert Moss – Robert.moss@chesterfield.gov.uk (emails should be sent by secure email), 01246 959722 or 07964 112217)).

Provided this quotation is less than £1k, further quotations are not required. Prescribers will need to email gantry hoist documentation to him, including the reasons for requiring a structural survey. Please ensure you include the address of the client, details of the floor as far as can be obtained, nature of the equipment with fixing and loading information (technical details of the equipment) and the size and proposed location of the equipment within the property. A quotation will be provided and if this is acceptable, Adult Social Care Business Services will then raise a purchase order. For health prescribers, please refer to the Senior Practitioner Occupational Therapist for Single Handed Care who will progress this.

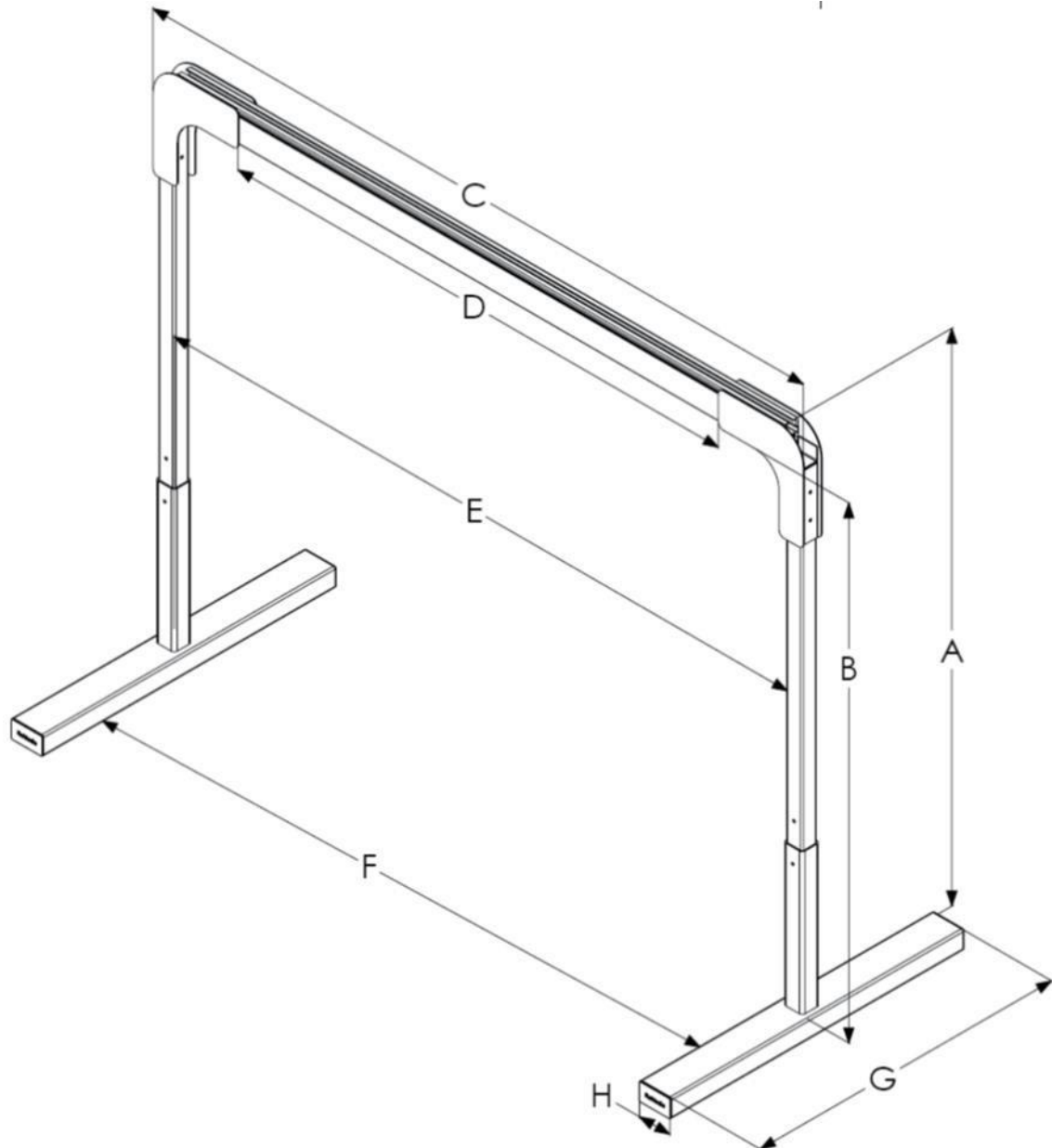
4.6 Floor adaptations/strengthening works:

There are various options to strengthen compromised floors to accommodate freestanding gantry hoists including over-boarding. However, it is important to weigh up the cost and disruption of this option versus moving directly to a fixed ceiling tracked hoist option. If a freestanding gantry is intended for short term use but a structural survey is required, it is advisable to request a full survey to explore the fixed option alongside this to reduce duplicate visits.

Should floor strengthening be required the normal funding process i.e. obtain quotations and follow the minor or major adaptation route (depending on whether it is under/over £1,000) will be followed.

Appendix 1 - Castor Freestanding Gantry Hoist dimensions

Castor Freestanding Gantry Hoist dimensions



Note: measurement is in cm

- A 200-244
- B 192-227
- C 200-500
- D 223-523
- E 209-509
- F 204-504
- G 120
- H 13

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Appendix 2 - Gantry Hoist Diagram

Gantry Hoist diagram

Prescribers also need to consider and include:

- measurements of all furniture items as well as room dimensions must be included on the diagram.
- if any wheeled equipment is used but stored elsewhere when not in use, please include on the diagram showing dimensions so that space can be considered.
- a measurement for the available carer space remaining once equipment and furniture has been taken into consideration.
- ensure that all measurements are in the same unit e.g. mm / cm / metres.
- pick up point on the diagram
- lights and power points

They also need to provide the following information in a supporting email:

- a summary of the client's needs, including any health conditions and clinical justification for requesting the equipment
- confirmation that they have advised the client that the gantry hoist is an interim measure whilst the progression to ceiling track hoist is made if this is an option

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Appendix 3 - Pre-installation environmental checklist for Freestanding Gantry Hoists

Please use this document in combination with the practice guidance on freestanding gantry hoists, DIAG Personal Handling Risk Assessment (including Specific Environmental Assessment – section 13).

Please answer the following questions by marking the appropriate boxes and make comments as necessary.

Section One: Personal details

Name of client:.....

Address:.....

.....

DOB:.....

Client PIN/NHS number:.....

Name of assessor:

Telephone number:.....

Date of assessment:.....

Section Two: The Gantry and Environment

1. What is the person's current weight?

NB: If the person's weight is above 160kg/25 stone and it is not concrete flooring then you must seek advice from a Structural Engineer e.g., Robert Moss at Chesterfield Borough Council (Robert.moss@chesterfield.gov.uk) (emails should be sent by secure email), 01246 959722 or 07964 112217)) to request a Structural Engineers survey before the installation of the Castor freestanding gantry.

2. Where is the gantry to be situated in the property?

☐ Upstairs ☐ Downstairs ☐ In a roof space (Dorma or loft conversion)

Comments.....
.....
.....

NB: If in a roof space you must seek advice from a Structural Engineer e.g., Robert Moss at Chesterfield Borough Council (Robert.moss@chesterfield.gov.uk) (emails should be sent by secure email), 01246 959722 or 07964 112217)) before you proceed with an installation.

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3. What type of flooring is in the room where the freestanding gantry hoist is to be installed?

- ☐ Wooden ☐ Concrete ☐ Unsure

Comments: (include how you gained this information e.g. from client directly or because you have seen the floor)

.....
.....

4. If the floor is wooden or you are not certain of the floor type, are there concerns about the condition of the floor e.g., soft/spongy areas on the floor (common places include the sides of chimney breasts or by the main entrance doors)?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:.....
.....

If you have answered 'yes' then the floor is of concern and you must seek guidance from a Structural Engineer e.g., Robert Moss from Chesterfield Borough Council (Robert.moss@chesterfield.gov.uk (emails should be sent by secure email), 01246 959722 or 07964 112217)) for advice before the installation of a freestanding gantry.

5. Is there a pronounced unevenness, slope or hump in the floor where the gantry feet need to be positioned?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments.....
.....

If you have answered yes, you must seek an alternative option i.e. re-location where possible or seek guidance from a Structural Engineer e.g., Robert Moss at Chesterfield Borough Council (Robert.moss@chesterfield.gov.uk (emails should be sent by secure email), 01246 959722 or 07964 112217)) regarding floor adaptation.

6. Consider the positioning of the gantry hoist.

Is there adequate space to accommodate the track and transfer area?

If no, consider alternative options e.g. non-contract special gantry, furniture relocation (see practice guidance)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments.....
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7. Consider the footprint of the gantry.

Consider the placement of the feet. Are they likely to obstruct people or equipment for example if placed near to doorways or furniture? If so, refer to practice guidance and comment on measures taken to resolve this

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments.....
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Author History

Approval and Authorisation History

Authored by: Beverley Capel	Service Manager	December 2017
Approved by: Quality Assurance Group		December 2017

Change History

Version 1 Beverley Capel	December 2017	Development of new guidance
Version 2 Stephanie Huddleston	December 2022	Review and update