

# Equipment compatibility study; Transferring to & from a stair lift using a Cricket

## 1. Introduction

Mrs. F, a client in South Wales has lower back problem and has had surgery to try and correct this. Now out of hospital and back at home to continue her rehabilitation. Mrs. F. lives in a two storey house (with an upstairs bathroom) and because of her situation is currently living downstairs. They sit in a wheelchair for the majority of the day but transferring from bed to wheelchair, commode is a challenge.

## 2. Situation & obstacles faced

We were contacted by the Vale of Glamorgan Social Services OT team based at Canolfan Ty Jenner in Barry to carry out an assessment for the Cricket II. Due to height of Mrs. F. (approximately 5'5") and the height of her wheelchair we decided she would need the Cricket set on the highest seat setting but with a paediatric seat to stop the seat catching against the cushion and arms of her wheelchair.

I was asked back a second time to meet with the builders and stair lift company (Handicare) to make sure that the Cricket would be compatible at both ends of the staircase. At the bottom of the staircase the track was extended to allow for safer transfers onto the stair lift and easier access for the carer however the transfer at the top of the stair lift raised a number of obstacles.

1. The stair lift is designed to stop at the top of the stairs with the footplate of the lift flush against the top step, not onto the landing.
2. There wasn't enough wall space upstairs to be able to add more tracking to the stair lift to allow for a straight transfer against the wall without impeding access to other bedrooms
3. The height of the tracking meant that even when the extra track could be added to raise the stair lift over the top step, the footplate would be obstructing a straight transfer.
4. Though the chair on the stair lift can be rotated 90 degrees to allow for a straight transfer, the front castors of the Cricket would be very close to, if not hanging over the top step.

## 3. Overcoming Obstacles

1. To overcome the issues raised the builders are going to add a 200mm extension to the wall coming away from the staircase. This will allow the stair lift company the ability to add 400mm of track, which will then lift the seat and footplate over and above the top step and onto the landing.
2. From here, the seat of the stair lift has the ability to lock into place at a 45 degree angle as well as a 90 degree angle and the footplate can retract in to a position underneath the seat.
3. When the seat is locked into the 90 degree angle the client will be able to retract the footplate.

4. Locking the seat into a 45 degree angle the Cricket now becomes safe to use as the castors won't be inhibited by the footplate and won't hang over the edge of the top step.

#### 4. Benefits to the User

- By overcoming these issues the use of the Cricket will now allow the client to be able to transfer safely from bed to chair, toilet, stair lift and to their wheelchair using only one piece of equipment.
- Having solved the issue with the stair lift, the client will now have the benefit of being able to sleep in their own bed with her partner, bathe in her own bathroom and have access to 50% of her home that wasn't available before e.g. Allowing the living room to return to normal with the temporary single bed and commode removed.
- The impact to daily health and wellness for the client and her family cannot be understated. Comfort, safety, dignity, piece of mind in addition to reducing the number of carers, reduction of visits and the reduction of transfers with all associated costs therein.

#### 5. Conclusions

Working together with the therapists, stair lift company and the contractor we successfully managed to create an environment for the client where safe transfers will be able to occur.

#### 6. References/Testimonials

Client/Carer	- difference it has/will make
Clinical	- achieving best outcomes - company service support/knowledge
Third party/ Joint commercial supplier	- how it supports their sale and delivery of complete care package.