PROVISION COMPETENCY:  
BED LEVER/LOOP

BED LEVER

Aim

• To assist person to transfer in/out of bed and with bed mobility.

Considerations

• Bed Lever is a device which can be used with a variety of conditions to enable a patient to pull themselves up into a sitting position from lying and provide support when getting in or out of bed.
• It consists of a base that is inserted under the mattress and a loop shaped handle which extends up at the side of the bed.
• A similar device called an ‘Easy Rail’ is available for use with slatted base beds.
• Bed lever has maximum user weight of 17 stone (108kg). Bariatric available as special order up to 25 stone (160kg). Easy Rail weight limit 20 stone (127kg). Bariatric 30 Stone (190kg) by special order.
• Both rails are issued with optional fixing straps.
• Standard bed levers should not be fitted to profiling beds, however, a clamp on version is available from stores.
• If the service user needs a bed lever at both sides speak to OT as a bed loop may be better option.
• Bed levers should not be used in place of bed rails (cot sides) and will not prevent a service user from rolling off the bed.

Assess the service user

• Is the person struggling to turn over in bed
• Are they unsteady getting up from bed
• Do they have sufficient upper limb strength to pull themselves into a different position?

Assess the environment

• Type of bed on which the lever is to be fitted i.e. Divan; slatted base; profiling.
• Is the mattress soft – lever may need fixing as likely to move in usage
• Does the bed have drawers in base as straps will make these more difficult to access
• Can the lever be fitted close to pillows or will fitted furniture prevent this.
**Issuing /Fitting Bed Lever**

1. Take from equipment store using the appropriate booking out system or order from loan store to be delivered direct to the service user.

2. Easy lever is usually supplied flat packed and needs to be assembled using the clips provided once the holes are lined up in 2 sections.

3. Insert the base section under the mattress towards the pillow end of the bed on the side which patient usually transfers in/out from, in a position where the service user can comfortably reach the rail to pull themselves up into a sitting position.

4. Service user should be assessed using the equipment for getting onto the bed, bed mobility and to assist in sitting from lying, sitting to standing.

5. Position of the equipment should be adjusted into the most effective position. Do not leave equipment with the service user until you are satisfied they can use it safely. If rail moves in use then would need to be strapped to bed base.

6. If there is any risk that the bed lever appears to slide away from the edge of the bed or there is a risk of the service user rolling between the edge of the bed and the rail when lying the fixing straps should be used.

7. Fixing the straps will require x2 members of staff due to manual handling issues.

**PROVSION OF BED LOOP**

**AIM**

- To assist the service user to transfer in & out of bed and with bed mobility in a bed of correct height.

**Considerations**

- The bed stick/loop consists of a telescopic metal frame with inverted ‘u’ shaped handles.
- The bed stick/loop fits single, double, and king size beds (not 2’ 6” beds).
- It fits under the mattress and assists with transfers on and off the bed and turning in bed.
- There must be no gap between the bed loop and mattress where head or arm could become trapped.
- To be fitted just below pillow level.
- Available through Social Services.
- Bed stick/loop is not suitable for metal or wooden beds(for these use a masterpiece frame screwed to the side of the bed).
Service User considerations

- Is the service user struggling to turn over in bed
- Are they unsteady getting up from bed
- Do they have sufficient upper limb strength to pull themselves into a different position?

Environmental considerations

- Type of bed on which the bed stick/loop is to be fitted e.g. Divan
- Can the bed stick/loop be fitted close to pillows or will fitted furniture prevent this.

Fitting a bed loop

1. Explain how the equipment works to the service users and where appropriate the carer. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to install correctly.

2. Check that the bed loop is securely assembled and that there are no signs of damage, which could make it unsafe. If there are any signs of loose fitting screws or damage, use a safe replacement.

3. Slide the loop between the mattress and the base or springs, ensuring that “U” shaped handle is close to the pillow. The bed stick/loop can be extended to fit a king size bed.

4. Demonstrate how the bed stick/loop can be used to assist with sitting down on to the bed, swinging legs up and around on to the bed, for moving in bed and to assist with sitting from lying and standing from sitting.

5. Ask the service user to sit on the bed close to the bed stick loop and demonstrate if they are able to use it independently. Adjust the position if it feels uncomfortable or difficult to use.

6. If the service user experiences problems do not leave the equipment in place.

7. Always record activity in the appropriate notes.

8. When issuing, ensure instructions are provided and the paperwork is completed correctly.

9. Arrange for delivery of equipment to service user’s home:

10. To ensure safe manual handling is practised, it may be advisable to install a bed loop between two staff, especially on a double bed.
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<td>Demonstrate factors to consider when;</td>
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<td>a. Assessing the service user</td>
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Sign and date when achieved

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