**Equipment Program**

Initial Considerations for an Electric Bed Prescription

October 2015

*Identify the issues for your client and carers*

* + - What do they want the bed to achieve?
		- Will an electric bed resolve the issues they are presenting?
		- Can an alternative option resolve the identified issues?

*Client function*

* Is there an opportunity for the client to improve with a physio program?

*Assess the technique – can it be changed or improved with education*

*Consider alternative equipment options*

* Bed blocks, bed stick, bed board

*Is the person willing to accept a single bed?*

* The Equipment Program only provides a single bed (or king single with clear justification). Often a person is not happy to go from their larger bed to a smaller bed. It has implications such as no longer being in bed / in the same room with their partner. This can be a big decision (particularly significant when the client is palliative).

*Who will get the room ready for the bed installation?*

* Can the carer shift the furniture themselves (is extra time needed to achieve this?) or can the family assist. This can take some time and needs to be coordinated when organising the bed installation.
* Is a lock out controller required (consider siblings or client’s cognitive abilities)?

*Is there sufficient access in/around the house for delivery?*

* Need to look at possible obstacles e.g. steps, stairs, narrow hallways, tight corners which will determine what kind of bed is required so that it can be safely delivered and installed i.e. bed that folds / pulled apart required for successful delivery / installation

*Who will operate the bed?*

* Do they have the physical and/or cognitive ability to do this?

*Is there sufficient space available for the bed and other equipment / furniture the person uses?*

* E.g., Mobile Hoist, PWC, Mobile shower commode – if these aren’t in place yet, will they likely need them in the future? Will there be sufficient space for these?
* Can client and carers complete all transfers / care in the space available

*How will the bed be positioned in the room?*

* Can the bed be positioned so that it can be approached from both sides for safe manual handling practices?

*Is there a power point available? Does the home have an electrical safety switch?*

* Electrical Point – should be near the head end so that cords won’t be a tripping hazard; safety switch

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Release Date: 20th October 2015 Originals held at Domiciliary Equipment Service, SA