

# Home Lift Program Information



The Home Lift Program provides the loan of a mechanical lift system to support Nova Scotians to remain in their own home and to support home care workers to safely deliver care.

Through the Home Lift Program, Nova Scotians can access a mechanical lift system if required to meet their care needs and support them to remain in their own home. Mechanical lift systems allow home care workers to safely deliver care by properly lifting, transferring and positioning an individual who is unable to do so independently.

The program is funded by the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care and administered by the Canadian Red Cross – Nova Scotia region and Nova Scotia Health Authority.

## What is the Home Lift Program?

The Home Lift Program is available to eligible Nova Scotians who are in need of a home lift system and are currently in receipt of home care services from a Seniors and Long-Term Care funded home care agency.

## What is a home lift system?

A home lift system is a mechanical device used to lift, transfer, and position a person who is unable to do so independently. Through this program, an individual can access a floor or free-standing lift and a sling to help meet their care needs at home.

## How Do I know if I qualify?

To be eligible an individual must:

- Be a resident of Nova Scotia, with a valid Nova Scotia health card number or be in the process of establishing permanent residence in Nova Scotia and have applied for coverage under Nova Scotia's Health Insurance Plan.
- Be in receipt of Home Care Services from a Seniors and Long-Term Care funded home care agency.
- Be assessed by an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist as requiring a mechanical lift regularly as part of the home care services they receive for the safe delivery of care.

### Is there a fee for the home lift program?

There is no fee for this program. However, to be eligible an individual must be receiving home care services from a Seniors and Long-Term Care funded home care agency, and assessed by an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist as requiring a mechanical lift to support the safe delivery of care. A fee may be required for home care based on an individual's income, family size and the care that is needed. A Nova Scotia Health Care Coordinator will confirm any costs as part of an initial assessment.

### If I have insurance or have coverage through another program (e.g., Veterans Affairs Canada, Non-Insured Health Benefits, etc.), am I still eligible to access a home lift through the program?

Having private insurance does not affect program eligibility. If an individual can access a home lift system through another publicly funded program but they meet the eligibility requirements (i.e., are in receipt of home care), they are eligible for this program. This will ensure home care workers have access to a lift when needed to provide care. Clients are encouraged however to contact their Care Coordinator to discuss their individual circumstances.

### How do I access the program and request a lift?

Individuals or their caregivers can contact their Nova Scotia Health Care Coordinator. Referrals can come from a Care Coordinator or from an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist who will work to determine eligibility, complete an assessment and request lifts by submitting the completed assessment to the Canadian Red Cross.

The Canadian Red Cross will notify clients with a date and time that a lift will be delivered during regular office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm (Excluding Holidays).

### Who is responsible for equipment delivery, set up and repair and who do I contact if my home lift system isn't working?

The Red Cross is responsible for the delivery, set up and maintenance of the home lift system and to ensure that it is in good working order. If a client or their caregiver have any questions or concerns about the home lift system, please contact the Canadian Red Cross by calling 1-888-496-0103, or by emailing [nsbedloans@redcross.ca](mailto:nsbedloans@redcross.ca).

Each home lift system is also labelled with contact information for the Canadian Red Cross.

### What and how is education given for the Home Lift Program?

When a home lift system is delivered to an individual's home, the Canadian Red Cross will provide the client/caregiver with technical education about the lift. Following delivery, an Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist will provide education to home care agency service providers and/or caregivers for the proper use of a home lift system.

### I am a client of the program and I no longer need the home lift system, who should I contact?

If a client or their home care provider no longer needs the home lift system, please contact the Canadian Red Cross. Individuals not in the program who purchased a home lift system privately, may donate the lift to the Canadian Red Cross. An income tax receipt will be issued.

**For more information**, please contact the Canadian Red Cross by calling 1-888-496-0103, or by emailing [nsbedloans@redcross.ca](mailto:nsbedloans@redcross.ca).