



## **OLTCA<sup>®</sup> Research News and Views**

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<http://www.oltca.com/en/research/newsandviews.html>

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### **Institute of Work & Health (IWH) Evaluate Impact of New Lifting Equipment**

IWH has been retained by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to research the effects of resident lifting equipment obtained through the recent government investment in such equipment of \$42 million dollars in 2004 and an additional \$20 million dollars in 2005. IWH are an independent, not-for-profit research organization whose mission is to conduct and share research with workers, labour, employers, clinicians and policy makers to promote, protect and improve the health of working people.

The study, known as OPLES (Ontario Patient Lift Evaluation Study) is guided by a research advisory committee of which OLTCA is an active member, and will examine implementation of the new lifts in relation to:

- Reduction of lift-related injury
- Quality of work life
- Quality of resident care

We are work with IWH to ensure the specific outcomes of this research are meaningful from the perspectives of both long term care homes and residents and families, as well as to ensure early findings from the study are shared with homes as soon as possible, so the findings can be used without delay to further enhance the way homes use the new equipment to the benefit of residents and those that care for them.

IWH will be approaching a sample of homes for enrolment in the study and OLTCA encourages member homes to contribute to this body of knowledge by participating. For more details on the OPLES study, see the ISW news article on OPLES.