Putting the right sling between your client and their lift

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Key Risk Assessment Principles

1) Identify the task- bed to chair, bed to bath
2) Load (person being lifted)- assessment of weight, height, compliance, skin condition, limitations
3) Environment (where equipment is to be used)- sufficient space, clearance and lighting
4) Equipment being provided and used- type of lift (floor vs ceiling lift), sling choice, type of fabric, safe working load and clear instructions.

“It is important that the equipment is demonstrated, and that the person carrying out the task is trained and competent to use the equipment safely”
Two Point Spreader Bars

- **Advantages**
  - Quick and easy to apply the sling as they are close together
  - Used for seated to seated transfers as promotes 90 degree sitting position
  - Assists in management of spasm or high tone clients due to closed postural position
  - Good for small clients

- **Disadvantages**
  - Reduced comfort for some due to closed postural position
  - Doesn’t work well with Bariatric clients
  - Closed postural position will reduce access to slings with apertures for toileting
Four Point Spreader Bars

- **Advantages**
  - Easy to position taller/bigger clients
  - Easier to position to middle of larger surface

- **Disadvantages**
  - Can exacerbate spasm because of more open postural position
  - Difficult to position in a chair in a 90 degree angle.
6 Basic Styles

Universal

Hammock

Universal Deluxe

Longseat

Hygiene

High Easy
Universal

This patient sling is one of the most popular slings on the market with varying names from different hoist manufacturers such as Easifit, Quickfit etc.

The universal sling is a divided leg sling that can be used between the legs or in a hammocked position. It features full back and leg support and is used for all general transfers. This sling is generally the first full body sling considered and is ideal for all compliant scenarios.

Manufactured in either a polyester or mesh material.


Max Weight Limit - 270kgs/600lbs
Critical Measurements

A - shoulder circumference
B - C7-base of spine
This patient sling is a full body supportive sling with divided legs. The leg sections are shaped to allow good support to the thigh and hip area with some access for toileting. The hammock sling like its name suggests can also be used in a hammocked leg position if required.

Optional hip tapes can give additional weight distribution and reduce pressure from the hip/thigh areas. When used with the hip tapes it is a popular style for users with arthritis and hip problems/pain.

Available in Polyester or Mesh material as standard.


Max Weight Limit - 270kgs/600lbs
Critical Measurements

A - shoulder circumference

B - C7-base of spine
Universal Deluxe

This patient sling is similar to the Hammock and is a very popular design with clients. The leg sections are shaped to allow good support to the hip and thigh areas with some access for toileting. The design of this sling allows for easy application and is good for standard transfers. It has successfully been used with active users and asymmetrical body shapes. When optional hip tapes are fitted, pressure is reduced from behind the knee and hip areas. This sling can only be applied in the divided leg position.

Available in Polyester or Mesh material as standard.


Max Weight Limit - 270kgs/600lbs
The Hygiene sling is fully padded throughout and has the addition of underarm padded rolls for greater patient comfort. It is available in either polyester or mesh material and features a velcro waist support and sometimes a click buckle as well.

The design of this patient sling is widely used for the convenience of toileting and dressing. The user must have good upper body control in order to use this sling. Care should be taken when fitting this style of sling, if the sling is not fitted correctly the client is at risk of slipping through the aperture.

Max Weight Limit - 270kgs/600lbs
Critical Measurements

A - chest circumference
B - armpit to waist
The Standard Longseat patient sling is manufactured with a padded roll along the edge of the leg area for additional comfort. It is available in either polyester or mesh material as standard and comes with provision for hip tapes. The hip tapes are available as an optional extra.

This style of sling is a full body supportive sling, generally applied on the bed as it does not have a divided leg section. The client will be hoisted with their legs in a hammocked position. A slightly reclined transfer position and either a chest support or waist support should also be considered with this style due to the open pick up position.

An in-situ version of this sling is available for users who require the sling to be left in place for longer periods of time.

Max Weight Limit - 270kgs/600lbs
Critical Measurements

A - shoulder circumference

B - top of head to back of knee
The High Easy patient sling is a full body, divided leg sling with an excellent head support.

This style of sling is very supportive and cocooning as well as being easy to apply. It is supplied with clip fixings and has padding to the legs as standard. It is suitable for use on stud fixing spreader bars ie; Arjo® etc.

It is available in polyester or mesh material as standard and for longer term use is also available in a range of in-situ fabrics.

Max Weight Limit - 270kgs/600lbs
Specialty Fabrics

Parasilk

The Parasilk fabric is slippery allowing it to be easily introduced even in the tightest of wheelchairs. Two layers of parasilk ensure the fabric moves against each other reducing friction against the chair and shearing effects on the user.

The Parasilk fabric is well suited to molded wheelchairs. It can be used and left in place in wheelchairs that have a 'tilt in space' function.

Care should be taken if used in a standard wheelchair due to the slippery nature of the fabric, as the user could slip forward within the wheelchair over a period of time. Recommended that when used in this application that the sling be removed.

It cannot be used for bathing due to the slippery nature of the fabric.
Specialty Fabrics

Silva-Superfine®

The Silva-Superfine® fabric is manufactured from Coolmax® EXTREME fabric which has state of the art moisture management properties.

It moves perspiration away from the body and through the fabric where it can quickly evaporate helping keep the user cool, this is especially good when used in tight molded wheelchairs that are often manufactured from an insulating foam.

Tailoring to the sling, along with the soft Superfine® fabrics two way stretch, allows the sling to mold to the users body shape like a second skin.

Parasilk on the leg sections allows for easier insertion in tight molded wheelchairs. It can also be used for bathing if required.
Specialty Fabrics

Silva-Superfine Plus® or Spacer Mesh

The Silva-Superfine® Plus or spacer mesh fabric is more suited to standard wheelchairs, although it can be used in molded chairs providing it has been allowed for during the chair assessment.

The Silva-Superfine® Plus or spacer mesh fabric offers a higher weight capacity for heavier users. The 3 dimensional structure allows for increased airflow is moisture wicking and quick drying.

Tailoring to the sling, along with the fabrics two way stretch, allows the sling to mold to the users body shape. It can also be used for bathing if required.
In-Situ Sling Range

Styles

- Straight Leg
- Deluxe Leg
- Longseat
- High Easy
In-Situ Sling Range

Straight Leg

The In-situ Straight Leg sling is a full body supportive patient sling that is used for most general transfers.

This style of sling is traditionally used in the divided leg position. It comes as standard with a built in head support with additional head support tapes and removable bones. The head support tapes allow for the users head to be fully supported even when the bones are removed.

Parasilk on the leg sections allows for easier insertion. When optional hip tapes are fitted, pressure is reduced from behind the knee and hip areas. This patient sling can also be used in the hammocked position if needed.
Deluxe Leg

The In-situ Deluxe Leg sling is a full body supportive patient sling that is very popular with users. The design of this sling allows for easy application and offers good support to the hip and thigh areas with full femur support. It comes as standard with a built in head support with additional head support tapes and removable bones.

The head support tapes allow for the users head support to be fully supportive even when the bones are removed.

Parasilk on the leg sections allows for easier insertion. When optional hip tapes are fitted, pressure is reduced from behind the knee and hip areas.

This patient sling can only be applied in the divided leg position. This style of sling has successfully been used with all conditions including active users and asymmetrical body shapes.
In-Situ Sling Range

Longseat

The In-situ Longseat sling is manufactured with a padded roll along the edge of the leg area for additional user comfort. It comes as standard with a head support and the provision for hip tapes. The hip tapes are available as an optional extra.

This style of patient sling is a full body supportive sling, generally applied on the bed as it does not have a divided leg section. The client will be hoisted with their legs in a hammocked position. A slightly reclined transfer position and either a chest support or waist support should also be considered with this style due to the open pick up position.

A commode aperture can be added but is not recommended for in-situ use, especially for those who may be prone to pressure ulcers around the sacral area.
**In-Situ Sling Range**

**High Easy**

The High Easy replacement sling is a full body, divided leg patient sling with an excellent head support.

This style of sling is very supportive and cocooning as well as being easy to apply. It is supplied with clip fixings and has padding to the legs as standard.

It is suitable for use on stud fixing spreader bars ie; Arjo® etc.

Arjo® is a registered trademark of the Arjo® group of companies.
Continental Sling Range

Low Convenience  Easy Access  Turning Sling
Turning Sling

A turning sling enables caregivers to turn a patient onto their side with minimum handling, reducing caregiver injury and reduces tugging/slide friction on users with skin integrity issues. Webbing loops on all four corners of the sling allow the turning device to be attached to a standard spreader bar style hoist from either side of the bed.

The sling is applied under the end user by using two slide sheets. Designed to turn and support the patient on their side without the need for the caregiver to lean over the bed and support the user's weight. Buckle secures to bed frame providing greater safety.

Turning can be carried out either side of the bed without re-inserting the sling. Easy to apply.
The Low Convenience Sling is manufactured in a structured polyester with a semi rigid foam lining to the legs and back section of the sling, giving increased support for the patient. The removable stiffeners also provide additional support.

This sling features a waist support channel and comes as standard with a removable and elasticated waist support. Underarm padded rolls provide comfort for the patient.

The Low Convenience patient sling is an excellent alternative to a standard toilet sling as it provides increased support for those users with more variable body tone, whilst still allowing good access to clothing in order to carry out toileting or hygiene transfers. The firmness of the sling makes it easy to apply and comfortable and is ideal for those carrying out independent transfers.

Max Weight Limit - 220kgs/485lbs
Hygiene vs Low Convenience Sling
Easy Access

The Continental Easy Access Sling is manufactured in a structured polyester with a semi rigid foam lining throughout, giving increased support for the patient.

The sling comes as standard with a head support (with removable stiffeners), full thoracic support and adjustable counter-balancing straps. These features allow for a reclined pick-up position if required. The sling has excellent commode access for toileting transfers and hygiene care.

It has been successfully used on patients with extreme active movement, strong extensor patterning and also those with high & low body tone. It is easy to apply within most seating systems or from the bed/floor.

Max Weight Limit - 220kgs/485lbs
Critical Measurements

A - chest circumference
B - armpit to waist
C - top of head to waist
Sizing Chart – Easy Access

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<th>A (Chest/Waist Circumference)</th>
<th>B (Armpit to Waist)</th>
<th>B (Top of Head to Waist)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>82 - 94cm</td>
<td>24 - 30cm</td>
<td>66 - 72cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tinkham Sling

A transfer sling designed for end users who suffer with extreme extensions.

Designed to ensure a safe transfer for those end users who have been known as 'escape artists' and have difficulty in maintaining any body control or those who have extensor patterning.

It is a fully supportive divided leg sling and features a wrap around thoracic section, designed to fit firmly around the body, with a buckle which allows the user to 'wear' the sling.

It features a soft padded neck roll and head support. Hip tapes supplied as standard with provision for a 2nd set of hip tapes. Two modesty straps supplied, one alongside the inner leg tape and one across the width of the leg.
Balance Sling

A transfer sling specifically designed with counter balance straps to enable active users more freedom of movement through transfers.

The sling is fully supportive, has divided leg, built in cushioned head support and comes with a waist support as standard.
Questions