

### Repositioning Sling Practice Guidelines

1. A ceiling lift and repositioning sling is your best and first option for safe, comfortable and consistent care when repositioning.
2. If the Practice Options below do not solve your concerns, access the resources available to you in the Care Planning section.
3. In very few cases, clinical resources may decide that use of a repositioning sling is contra-indicated due to the person's condition.
4. In these unusual cases, another solution that is safe for patients and staff must be found by the clinicians and documented on the person's care plan and communicated to all staff caring for the person.
5. Soaker pads are not an acceptable alternative for repositioning dependent persons, as they can cause skin shearing and staff injury.

Medical Condition	Practice Options	Care Planning Choices
Compromised skin integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control shearing when applying or lifting with the sling to ensure no breakdown or interference with granulation tissue</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wound care specialist</b> Can assess condition and make recommendations for protection and other care options and/ or timeframes to re-assess, etc.</p> <p><b>Patient Care manager</b> Can review procedures, advise re care plan options, arrange consult with others, provide direction re safe work procedures</p> <p><b>SPH peer leaders</b> Can advise re: positioning options Can liaise with managers re: training required and documentation, etc.</p> <p><b>WHS Advisors</b> Can advise re: research, procedures, sling choices, support peer leaders, new products, etc.</p> <p><b>Person's physician</b> Can advise re: medication review, care options, medical contraindications etc.</p> <p><b>Sling supplier</b> Can advise re: sling options, new products</p>
Contractures or spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure good sling placement so that unexpected spasms do not lead to person coming out of the sling</li> <li>• Ensure proper positioning and support for contracted limbs which cannot tolerate full body / limb extension</li> </ul>	
Fractures, hip, knee or shoulder replacement. Some bone and joint conditions, e.g. spinal stenosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control shearing on the incision and try to minimize time in lift to decrease pain</li> <li>• Ensure the positioning required for sling does not exceed the range of motion allowed</li> </ul>	
Obesity and respiratory conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a large enough sling to avoid pressure on hips and shoulders and to ensure there is no pressure on the ribcage causing shortness of breath</li> <li>• Use adequate staff to hold limbs and position sling to minimize risk of shearing</li> <li>• Raise the head of bed if necessary while repositioning if the person cannot tolerate lying flat</li> </ul>	
Drainage tubes, stomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the fit of the sling, or rolling to apply sling, does not cause pressure on tubes or stoma</li> </ul>	
Claustrophobia dementia, confusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassure the person and minimize time with top loops hooked up to avoid aggression or increased risk of falls /injury if the person struggles to get out of the sling</li> </ul>	