


Hammock Sling Application in Bed

Instructions

Safety Points

<p><u>Place sling:</u></p> <p>Roll the patient away from you.</p> <p>Place sling lengthwise behind the patient with the centre coloured strip of webbing along the patient's spine.</p> <p>Lay half of sling material against the patient's back and thighs.</p> <p>Ensure bottom edge of the sling is placed at the patient's tailbone; top edge of the sling should be at approximately the top of the ears.</p> <p>Gather and tuck the rest of the sling under the patient.</p> <p>Roll the patient back; gently pull the sling through to flatten.</p> <p>Bend the patient's leg and slide the sling leg piece under the patient's thigh. Ensure the leg piece is flat.</p> <p>Repeat with the other leg.</p> <p>Pull inside leg loops up and between the patient's thighs.</p> <p><u>Determine leg configuration:</u></p> <p>Crossed – the safest and most comfortable for the patient</p> <p>Cradled</p> <p>Open – primarily for care activities</p>		<p>Problem rolling the patient?</p> <p>If the patient is difficult to roll for any reason, try:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have patient reach to the side to hold railing Roll patient more slowly Roll patient <u>towards</u> you Roll patient with an assistant Use mechanical device such as roller bands Use assistive devices such as slider sheets <p>If still difficult, consider modifying, or not performing, the care task at this time and/or seek advice from your supervisor.</p> <p>Do not support the weight of the patient's leg while applying the sling. Bend the patient's knee first.</p> <p>Problem placing the leg piece?</p> <p>If the patient's leg will not stay in a bent position, a second caregiver can hold the leg in place while the sling leg piece is positioned. Or bend the patient's knees over a pillow first and slide the leg pieces under the thighs.</p>
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Fit the sling's **long leg straps through the short inside leg loops** in the desired leg-band configuration.

Attach straps:

Position the carry bar across the patient's shoulders.

Attach shoulder, middle and long leg straps to carry bar.

Choose the loop options on the sling straps according to the desired sling inclination:

Vertical:

- Leg straps – longest loop
- Shoulder straps – shortest loop

Reclined:

- Leg straps – shortest loop
- Shoulder straps – longest loop

Lifting patient:

Raise the patient a few inches and check to ensure all straps are safely attached and the sling is comfortably positioned for the patient (e.g. no pinching)

If the sling is not positioned comfortably, lower the carry bar to take the weight off the sling before adjusting.



The "crossed" and "open" leg configurations will form "troughs" for each thigh.

Lower the carry bar enough that the straps can be easily attached to the carry bar without "tugging" or pulling up on the sling.

As the patient is being raised, ensure that the top of the sling does not slip down behind the patient's neck. The top of the sling can be held in position behind the patient's head while the patient is being lifted.