

Universal Sling Application in Bed

Instructions

PLACE SLING

Roll patient away from you.

Place sling lengthwise behind patient.

Lay half of sling material against patient's back and thighs.

Ensure bottom edge of sling is placed at patient's tailbone.

Gather and tuck rest of sling under patient.

Roll patient back, gently pull sling through to flatten.

Bend patient's leg and slide sling leg piece under the patient's thigh.

Ensure leg piece is flat.

Repeat with other leg.

If two care givers assisting, one supports the patient's thigh while other places sling.

Determine leg configuration

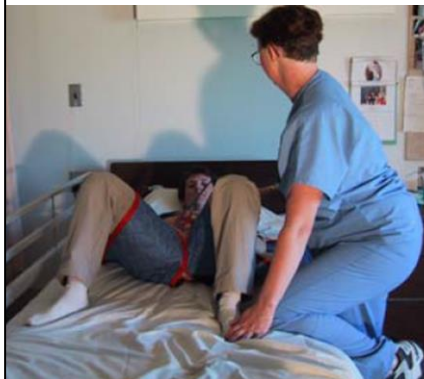
Crossed *

Cradled

Open – consult Rehab

*The crossed configuration is the safest and most comfortable for most patients.

Thread one strap through the opening on the other.



Safety Points

Problem rolling patient?

Does the patient require a repositioning sling for turning or boosting? If yes – use a repositioning sling to position patient for transfer sling placement.

If patient difficult to roll, for any reason, try:

- Roll patient more slowly
- Roll patient towards you
- Bend one / both knees first
- Have patient reach to side
- Roll with an assistant

If still difficult, consider modifying or not performing the care task at this time and /or seek advice from your supervisor.

If problem continues, consult the clinician responsible.

Do not support weight of the leg while applying the sling. Bend the patient's knee first.

Problem placing leg piece?

If patient's leg will not stay in a bent position, a second caregiver can hold the leg while leg piece is positioned. Or bend patient's knees over a pillow first, and then slide leg pieces under thighs.



Instructions

Safety Points

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| <p>Universal sling (cont.)</p> <p>Attach Straps</p> <p>Attach shoulder, middle and leg straps to carry bar.</p> <p>Raise the head of bed before raising the lift – this will ease strain on patient’s neck and promote independence in maintaining head position during the lift.</p> <p>Check Sling</p> <p>Raise patient a few inches and check to ensure all straps are safely attached and the sling is comfortably positioned for the patient.</p> <p>Sling not positioned comfortably for patient?</p> <p><i>Lower carry bar to take weight off sling before adjusting leg piece.</i></p> |     | <p>Problem attaching sling?</p> <p><i>When attaching sling, do not pull up on sling – lower carry bar if needed.</i></p> <p>Minimal assistance may be provided to stabilize the patients head while lifting – i.e. light touch to keep head in position. If more assistance is required use a hammock sling or a universal sling with head support.</p> <p>Problem with patient’s buttocks dropping through the sling?</p> <p>Lower patient immediately</p> <p>Re-assess leg configuration and sling size and style choice.</p> <p>If unable to secure patient safely in the sling –do not proceed. Contact your supervisor and / or clinician for advice.</p> |
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