

Positioning Transfer Slings under a Client Lying in Bed (Quick Fit & Hammock Slings)

Safe Work Procedure

Issue Date: May 1, 2026

Last Review Date: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Risk Factors: The risk of accidents with mechanical lifts and transfer slings is high, if used incorrectly.

Client Considerations: The ceiling lift, the spreader bar and the transfer sling must all have the appropriate lifting capacity for the client. The transfer sling must be appropriate for the client's current abilities, weight and size.

Number of Workers: A minimum of 2 workers is required to position a transfer sling under a client and to transfer them using a mechanical lift.

Number of Workers: 2 workers are needed for positioning a sling under a client in bed.



Equipment Needed: Transfer sling (quick fit or hammock style sling).

Procedure:

1. Transfer sling selection

- Ensure the selected sling is the appropriate sling for the client's current abilities, weight and size.

2. Perform a visual inspection of the selected sling

- Are there any signs of fraying on the straps? Does the sling have any holes, loose stitching or discoloration? *If yes, this sling should no longer be used.*
- Are you able to read the label to confirm the style of sling, weight capacity, and size? *If not, this sling should no longer be used.*

3. Position one half of the sling under the client

- Turn the client to one side using a safe turning technique. One worker assists with holding the client, if needed.
- Fold the sling in half with the side that will be positioned against the client's body facing inward.
- Position half of the sling on the bed with the midpoint of the sling along the client's spine.
- Position the apex of the sling at the client's coccyx.
- Roll the half of the sling that will be positioned under the other side of the client toward the client's body in the center of the mattress.
- Lay the client on their back.

4. Position the other half of the sling under the client

- Turn the client to their other side.
- Position the rolled half of the sling that is in the center of the bed out onto the mattress.
- Lower the client to their back.

5. Ensure the correct position of the sling

- Sling's center is along the client's spine.
 - Hammock sling goes from the client's coccyx to the top of their head.
 - Quick fit sling goes from the client's coccyx to the top of the client's shoulders.

6. Cross the sling's leg straps

- For hammock slings:
 - Cross the short leg straps by putting one short strap through the other.
 - Position the long leg strap on each side through the crossed short strap.
- For quick fit slings:
 - Cross one leg strap through the other at the insertion point at the end of the strap where it attaches to the canvas of the sling.

7. Move the client using a mechanical lift

- With the sling positioned under the client, the sling can be attached to an appropriate mechanical lift for the moving task.

Resources:

- [Arjo Loop Slings](#)
- Other relevant safe work procedures
 - Positioning a Quick Fit Sling under a Client in Bed
 - Positioning a Hammock Sling Under a Client in Bed
 - Using a Ceiling Lift to Transfer a Client
 - Using a Floor Lift/Portable Lift to Transfer a Client