

Positioning a Hammock Sling under a Client Lying in Bed

Safe Work Procedure

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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 hammock sling must be appropriate for the client's current abilities, weight and size. A hammock sling is appropriate for a client who needs head support.

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: Hammock sling and slider sheets (if needed for repositioning)

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. If the client is on slider sheets that stay on the bed, drape the top slider sheet over the client.
- 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 bed.
- If the client is positioned on slider sheets, position the top slider sheet on top of the sling before the client lies on their back.



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

- Turn the client to their other side. Drape the top slider sheet over the client.
- Position the rolled half of the sling out onto the bed.
- Roll up the top slider sheet and position it close to the client's spine.
- Client lays back on the bed.



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.
- Pull out the top slider sheet from under half of the client.



6. Cross the sling's leg straps

- Cross the short leg straps by putting one short strap through the other
- Position the long leg straps through the crossed short strap.



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
 - Using a Ceiling Lift to Transfer a Client
 - Using a Floor Lift/Portable Lift to Transfer a Client