

Using a Turning Sling to Turn a Client

Safe Work Procedure

Issue Date: May 1, 2026

Last Review Date: _____

Reviewed By: _____



Risk Factors:

- Physically supporting a client in a side-lying position while the client's care is completed can cause injury to a worker's wrist, shoulders and back. A turning sling is designed to turn a client using a mechanical lift and it can be used to keep a client comfortably lying on their side. This eliminates the need for a worker to hold the client, reducing worker risk of injury.

Client Considerations:

- The turning sling is not intended to be left under the client following being used as it could cause pressure to the client's skin.

Number of Workers: 2 workers

Equipment Needed: Turning sling and mechanical lift. A ceiling lift or floor lift could be used.

Procedure:

1. Sling selection

- Ensure the selected sling is the appropriate sling for the client's 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 the turning sling under the client

- Fold one end of the sling into an arrow shape to slide it under the small of the client's back.

4. Attach one side of the turning sling to the bedframe

- Attach one of the sling's Velcro straps to the bed frame on the side of the bed that the client will be turning toward. Do not attach the Velcro strap on both sides of the bed.

5. Bed positioning

- Position the bed height to an ergonomic position for the workers.
- Position side rails up on the side that the client will be turned toward and place pillows along the rails to reduce risk of client contact with them.

6. Attach the sling to the mechanical lift

- Attach the straps on the side of the sling that is not attached to the bed frame to the mechanical lift's spreader bar.

7. Turn the client

- Two workers are required to be present when moving the client using a mechanical lift.
- Raise the spreader bar of the lift until the client is positioned on their side.
- Complete necessary client cares while the client is positioned in side-lying supported by the turning sling.
- While cares are being completed and the client is being supported by the turning sling and not being moved, only one worker is required to be present.

8. Lower the client

- If one worker left while client cares were being completed, call for a second worker to be present while the client is being moved by the mechanical lift.
- Lower the client until they are positioned on their back.

9. Remove the turning sling

- A turning sling is not intended to be left under a client. Remove the turning sling following use.

Resources:

- [Guldmann Twin Turner User Manual](#)