

Patient handling: Using slings with overhead lifts and floor lifts

Manual handling of patients is a leading cause of injury among health care workers. Overhead lifts and floor lifts are used to reduce workers' risk of injury from manually transferring patients. Other common care tasks also pose a risk to care workers. When used with a variety of slings, these lifts can help to reduce the risk.

Band slings

Band slings (also known as roller band slings) are narrow, long, and often quilted. Each sling has a strap on each end. Depending on the task, one or two slings may be used at a time.

Some examples of uses for these slings include the following:

- Raising and holding limbs while:
 - Dressing a patient
 - Changing a wound dressing
 - Washing (especially perineal care)
 - Carrying out rehabilitation exercises
- Turning or rolling a patient



Band slings (top and bottom)



Walking sling

Walking slings

Walking slings (or standing slings) are fully padded. They are used mainly for rehabilitation purposes, including the following:

- Supporting a person from a seated to a standing position
- Walking or gait training

Repositioning slings

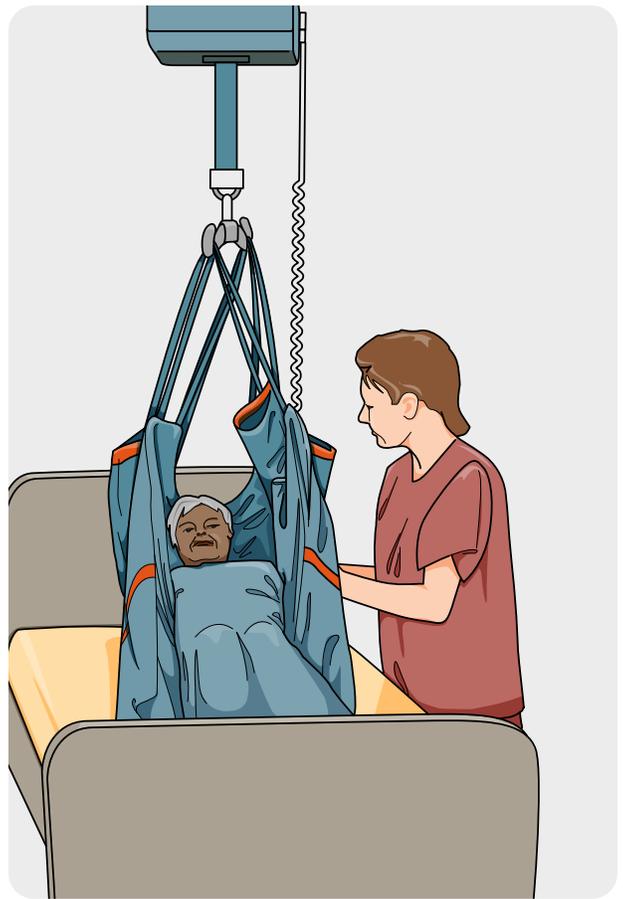
Repositioning slings are also known as positioning, supine, or stretcher slings. Each sling consists of a flat sheet, usually made of polyester, with multiple straps along each side. The straps can be attached to an overhead lift. With these slings, a patient can be lifted or turned while lying down.

Repositioning slings are designed to be a part of the bedding and remain under the patient. A clinical team approach should be used to assess these slings' appropriateness for patients prone to skin breakdown.

Repositioning slings have many uses, such as the following:

- Positioning a patient in bed, including boosting or positioning pillows
- Turning or rolling a patient for personal care
- Transferring a patient between two horizontal surfaces (e.g., from bed to stretcher)
- Assisting a patient to a sitting position to change sheets and to place pillows or portable X-ray plates

For more information, visit the [Patient handling](#) page on [worksafebc.com](#).



Repositioning sling