

Positioning Sling



Description

Manually repositioning and turning poses a significant risk of injury to caregivers. The Positioning Sling is designed to address the risk of manual repositioning, allowing caregivers to reposition and turn clients with less effort. The Positioning Sling is intended to be permanently in place, as part of the bedding. The sling has several pairs of straps and loops to offer support in a variety of positions. The sling can also be used for lateral transfers between horizontal surfaces.

It is recommended that a flat cotton sheet be placed between the sling and the client to improve breathability and decrease risk of skin breakdown. If high risk for skin breakdown is an issue with the client, then spacer fabric positioning sling should be used.

The use of the Positioning Sling for turning and repositioning activities will reduce the friction and shearing forces typically generated during these tasks, increasing the safety for the client.

Depending on the position of the carry bar when attaching the loops the client may experience cocooning. Special precautions should be taken if pre-existing conditions indicate that this is not a safe position for the client, or if the client is not comfortable in this position.

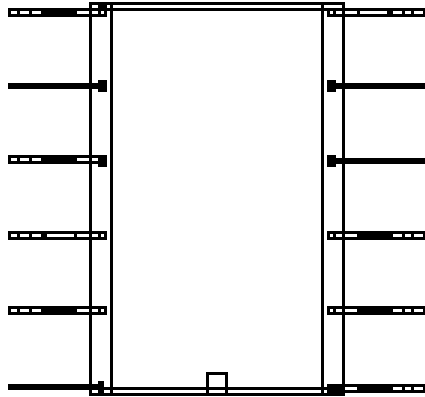
This sling is typically used in conjunction with a ceiling lift system. The configuration of the ceiling lift system may allow for easier use of the Positioning Sling for some tasks. Integration of the Positioning Sling with a floor lift is possible but the restricted lifting height may limit the function of the sling.

Weight Capacity

The Positioning Sling is rated to 800lbs in mesh and 440lbs in Spacer fabric.

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Sling Options

Fabrics: Positioning Slings are available in a variety of materials.

- Polyester (Solid White and Solid Green)
- Mesh (blue)
- Spacer Fabric (black)
- Patient Specific

Positioning Slings are also available with “Tabs”. The tabs are tucked under the mattress following a reposition/turn to prevent the sling from moving on the bed surface.

Head Support: Not applicable. The Positioning Sling, regardless of size, is designed to provide full head support.

Clinical Applications:

Appropriate for a client who:

- Requires lateral transfers (i.e., bed to stretcher)
- Requires frequent turning or repositioning
- Is physically difficult for caregivers to reposition or turn
- Receives care in side lying (i.e., peri-care, wound care)

A different sling type will best meet the needs of a client who:

- Is not medically safe or comfortable in the “cocoon” created by the sling.

Sling Sizing Guidelines

Sizes: Positioning Slings are available in a variety of sizes and options.

- 36 x 51”
- 36 x 70”



- 42 x 78" (Most Common)
- 56 x 78"
- Custom

Determining Positioning Sling Fit:

Sizing should be assessed to ensure that straps are not too short, creating difficulty in accessing the straps or loops. Once applied to the carry bar, straps should not come into contact with the skin.

The sling should be positioned high on the bed to ensure that support is provided to the head.

Custom slings are available.

Positioning Sling Application Instructions

Before the client is transferred to the bed:

1. Place the Positioning Sling on the bed with the tag facing out and the top border in line with the top of the bed
2. Ensure there are no wrinkles in the Positioning Sling
3. Transfer the client to the bed using a sling and lift. The appropriate sling model will be determined through assessment. Once on the bed, remove the secondary sling from underneath the client, leaving the positioning sling in place. Use an appropriate number of caregivers to remove the sling with the goal of increasing client comfort and minimizing the physical exertion required of the caregivers.
4. Attach the loops on the straps to the carry bar.

The straps at, and just distal to the heaviest points of the body must be attached to the carry bar.

The following straps will always be applied:

- Head support straps
- Shoulder straps
- Hip straps
- Thigh straps
- Knee/calf straps

On longer Positioning Slings the foot straps/bottom straps are often not attached, as doing so will cause the sling to "bunch-up" under the client's knees.

- a. To maintain the client level while lifting (i.e., to transfer to another surface) make sure you use the same colour loops on both sides of the sling (i.e., if you use red on the left, use red on the right)
 - b. To roll the client to the side you will attach the straps on one side of the client only. The straps on the side of the bed you are rolling the client toward will not be attached to the carry bar. Make sure the bed rail is up on the side you are rolling the client toward. If bedrails are not available, position a caregiver on the side you are rolling the client toward to ensure client safety.
- d. Raise the carry bar
- a. Lift the client off of the bed if transferring to another surface
 - b. Raise the carry bar as much as is needed to turn the client on his/her side
 - i. If the client is to be left positioned on his/her side (i.e., for pressure relief): place bolsters or pillows behind the client to help maintain the client in the desired position.
 - ii. If the client is to receive care on his/her side (i.e., bathing, wound care):

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1. Assist the client to maintain the side-lying position that has been achieved using the carry bar. More than one caregiver may be needed for this task.
2. Lower the carry bar to allow slack on the straps. Remove the loops from the carry bar. Place the sling back down on the bed to allow access to the client's back.
3. Provide care as needed.

Important note: Once you have reached the point at which there is tension on the straps but the client has not yet been lifted off of the surface, STOP THE LIFT. Make sure all straps are securely fastened to the carry bar and that the sling has not shifted position on the client's body (i.e., it is not slipping up the client's back and there no folds or wrinkles in the sling fabric). If you notice anything of concern, stop the lift, and reassess the situation.

Should the Positioning Sling become soiled and require removal and replacement, the client should be transferred from the bed using a traditional sling or another Positioning Sling.

Ordering Guidelines

Part Number	Description
507800	Position – White (36" x 51")
507802	Position – Green (36" x 51")
507803	Position – White (42" x 78") – Tabs
507804	Position – Green (42" x 78") – Tabs
507805	Position – White (36" x 70")
507807	Position – Green (36" x 70")
507808	Position – White (42" x 78")
507809	Position – Green (42" x 78")
507810	Position – Blue Mesh (36" x 70")
507811	Position – Blue Mesh (42" x 78")
507814	Position – Blue (56" x 78")
507815	Position – Green (56" x 78")
547811	Positioning Patient Specific Sling – 10 per Package
9Y4900	Positioning Sling Spacer Fabric (42x78)
9Y4901	Positioning sling Spacer Fabric with Elastic (42x78)

