

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS AFFECTING BARIATRIC PATIENTS
DURING PATIENT HANDLING TASKS**

Medical Condition	Consequence	Discussion
Severe pain and discomfort	Pain, inability to assist with transfer, therefore increased dependency level	Moving patient can increase pain and impede patient's ability to assist safely with transfer.
Hip & knee replacements, joint instability, unstable spine, history of falls, fractures, contractures and spasms	Pain, fall risk, increased injury, extending injury to the already affected joint, ligaments or bone.	All movements put them at risk for pain. Weight bearing activities during transfers with these medical conditions put the patient at a risk for a fall, or extending injury to the already affected joint, ligaments or bone. If you try moving them in a lifting device, the sling position and posture required could put pressure on these affected body parts increasing pain and strain. Choose the least stressful in regards to pain, and stress to body parts that could cause injury when moving the patient.
Severe edema, wounds, diaphoresis, and poor skin integrity	Interference in healing granulation or increased skin breakdown	Interference in healing granulation or increased skin breakdown through shearing, rubbing, abrading and pressure from equipment i.e. slings during transfers.
Postural hypotension, paralysis/ paresis	Fall risk, slippage through sling, unsupported limb may be bumped, struck or caught	Patients are at risk for falls and slippage during transfers. Full support (supine) slings would be required to avoid falls and slippage. Unsupported limb at risk for being bumped, struck or caught.
Unstable spine/severe osteoporosis	Pain, injury	Pain and injury if not properly supported during transfer.
Splints traction, fractures	Misalignment and extension of injury, impedance of healing and pain.	If not properly supported, this could result in misalignment and extension of injury, impedance of healing and pain.

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Respiratory/cardiac compromised	Shoulder compression and respiratory distress	Transferring patients in flat lying positions or in slings that are compressing shoulders and chest can cause respiratory distress for patients. Angina or chest pain from coronary insufficiency can result if patient is required to move self more than he is physically capable.
Amputation	Slippage and fall	If leg is affected and there is poor sling fit, this may cause slippage and falls, if patient is transferring in a standing position.
Stomas, wounds, tubes	Pain and interference with tube drainage.	Compression during transfer from slings or positioning can cause pain and interfere with tube drainage.