

# Guidelines for Sling Selection<sup>a,b</sup>

Activity	Sling Choices	Criteria	
Vertical Transfers	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation.
	STANDING	Patient can grasp & hold handle with at least one hand, has at least partial weight bearing capability, has upper body strength, and is cooperative & can follow simple commands	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning.
Lateral Transfers	SUPINE	Use with any patient, except those with respiratory compromise or with wounds present that may affect transfers/repositioning.	Do NOT use if patient has respiratory compromise or if wounds present may affect transfers/positioning
Bathing	LIMB SUPPORT	Sustained holding of any extremity while bathing in bed	Consider wounds, comfort, circulation, neurovascular and joints, if task is of long duration
	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation.
	SUPINE	Patient cannot tolerate sitting position and has restricted hip & knee flexion. Need for patient to remain flat	Do NOT use if patient has respiratory compromise or if wounds present may affect transfers/positioning.
Toileting	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation.
	STANDING	Patient can grasp & hold handle with at least one hand, has at least partial weight bearing capability, has upper body strength, and is cooperative & can follow simple commands	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning.
Repositioning in Chair	STANDING	Patient can grasp & hold handle with at least one hand, has at least partial weight bearing capability, has upper body strength, and is cooperative & can follow simple commands	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning
Repositioning in Chair	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation
Repositioning Up in Bed	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation
	SUPINE	Patient cannot tolerate sitting position and has restricted hip & knee flexion. Need for patient to remain flat	Do NOT use if patient has respiratory compromise or if wounds present may affect transfers/positioning

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Activity	Sling Choices	Criteria	
Turning a Patient in Bed	SUPINE	Patient cannot tolerate sitting position and has restricted hip & knee flexion. Need for patient to remain flat.	Do NOT use if patient has respiratory compromised or if wounds present may affect transfers/positioning
Making an Occupied Bed	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation
	SUPINE	Patient cannot tolerate sitting position and has restricted hip & knee flexion. Need for patient to remain flat	Do NOT use if patient has respiratory compromise or if wounds present may affect transfers/positioning
Functional Sit to Stand Training/Support	STANDING	Patient can grasp & hold handle with at least one hand, has at least partial weight bearing capability, has upper body strength, and is cooperative & can follow simple commands	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning
Dressing	LIMB SUPPORT	Sustained holding of any extremity while dressing in bed	Consider wounds, comfort, circulation, neurovascular and joints, if task is of long duration
	STANDING	Patient can grasp & hold handle with at least one hand, has at least partial weight bearing capability, has upper body strength, is cooperative & can follow simple commands	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning
Pericare	STANDING	Patient can grasp & hold handle with at least one hand, has at least partial weight bearing capability, has upper body strength, and is cooperative & can follow simple commands	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning
Ambulation Training and Support	AMBULATION	Partial weight bearing level of cooperation, consult Dr. & therapist for readiness	Consider location of wounds for sling application
Wound Care/Dressing	LIMB SUPPORT	Sustained holding of any extremity while dressing/caring for wounds while patient in bed	Consider wounds, comfort, circulation, neurovascular and joints, if task is of long duration
Surgical Procedures	LIMB SUPPORT	Sustained holding of any extremity while performing surgical procedure in bed	Consider wounds, comfort, circulation, neurovascular and joints, if task is of long duration
Fall Rescue	SEATED	Patient can tolerate sitting position and has adequate hip & knee flexion. No apparent skeletal injuries or TBI in the fall.	Consider location of wounds for sling application and patient positioning. Consider hip or fracture precautions. Use amputee sling for any patient with AKA or hip disarticulation
	SUPINE	Patient cannot tolerate sitting position and has restricted hip & knee flexion. Need for patient to remain flat	Do NOT use if patient has respiratory compromise or if wounds present may affect transfers/positioning.
Post Mortem Care	SUPINE	Patient must be deceased	Sling used must be compatible with type of lift at morgue. Consider disposable slings
<sup>a</sup> Definition of Terms:	Ambulation: Sling provides assistance for ambulation; Limb Support: Sling maintains limbs in static positions; Seated: Sling maintains the patient in a sitting position; Standing: Sling provides assistance for standing upright and weight bearing; Supine: Sling maintains the patient in a lying position.		
<sup>b</sup> General Notes	Amputees: Be sure that you use the appropriate sling designed for this purpose. Capacity: Be sure that you assure that your sling, spreader bar and lift have the appropriate weight capacity for your patient. Product Modification: Modification of sling or spreader bar can make void product warranty.		