



Mobilization Safety Tips



Ambulation Shorts



- 1 At least two caregivers are required when using a lift; more caregivers may be needed to ensure patient safety
- 2 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 3 Do not attempt to mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 4 Once the ambulation shorts have been placed on the patient, they may be tightened or adjusted using the red pull-tabs on the straps
- 5 With the patient seated at the bedside, attach the ambulation shorts straps to the carry bar
- 6 For additional trunk control or support, the front straps may be placed on back hooks and the back straps on front hooks
- 7 With tension in the sling straps, stop and ensure all straps are secure and the patient is comfortable
- 8 Built in support arms on the lift, or a front wheeled walker may be used for additional stability
- 9 Use the up/down buttons on the lift controller to raise the carry bar enough to support the patient
- 10 At least one caregiver should support the patient at all times
- 11 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 12 It is not necessary to lock the brakes of the lift while ambulating the patient
- 13 Roll the lift forward or backward as needed to assist the patient while walking



Seated Clip Sling



- 1 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 2 Do not attempt to mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 3 Place the sling behind the patient, tucking down to the base of the patient's hips
- 4 Ensure the legs of the sling are even on each side of the patient
- 5 Tuck the legs of the sling under and between the legs of the patient, ensure there is no bunching that may irritate the patient's skin during the lift
- 6 Secure the sling straps to the lift by attaching the sling clips to the carry bar
- 7 With tension in the sling straps, stop and check to ensure all straps are secure and the patient is comfortable
- 8 At least one caregiver should support the patient at all times
- 9 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 10 If needed, use the handle on the carry bar to adjust the position of the patient
- 11 Do not use a seated sling if the patient has wounds on the medial, lateral or posterior thighs as pressure from the sling may irritate wounds
- 12 Seated slings are intended for use on a patient that can tolerate the seated position. If the patient cannot tolerate sitting, consider a full body repositioning sling for safety and comfort
- 13 Before using any mobilization device, consider how it might impact the patient's skin and the location of any wounds



Ceiling Lift or Gantry & Repositioning Sling



- 1 At least two caregivers are required when using a lift; more caregivers may be needed to ensure patient safety
- 2 Prior to use, inspect the sling for any signs of wear, tears or fraying
- 3 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 4 Do not attempt to mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 5 Ensure the patient's head is below the top of the sling and centered near the head placement tag
- 6 With tension in the sling straps, stop and ensure all straps are secure and the patient is comfortable
- 7 Beginning at the patient's head, attach the sling straps to the carry bar, matching the loop colors across the body
- 8 For additional support, it may be necessary to cross the bottom straps of the sling between the patient's legs
- 9 At least one caregiver should support the patient at all times
- 10 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 11 While one caregiver raises the carry bar, the second caregiver supports and guides the patient
- 12 Once the patient is lifted above the mattress surface, reposition as necessary
- 13 Once the mobilization task is completed, remove the straps from the carry bar before leaving the patient unattended in a chair, wheelchair, bedside commode, etc.



Limb Lifter / Limb Sling



- 1 Place the limb lifter under the patient's extremity, ensuring there is no bunching
- 2 Raise the lift until there is tension in the straps, stop to ensure the straps are secure on the carry bar and the limb lifter is in the correct position
- 3 To provide stability, a caregiver may need to lightly support the extremity
- 4 Ensure the straps are secure and in good condition
- 5 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 6 The limb lifter and limb sling may be used to assist with wound care, dressing changes, peri/incontinence care and placing indwelling urinary catheters



Portable Lift and Seated Sling



- 1 At least two caregivers are required when using a lift; more caregivers may be needed to ensure patient safety
- 2 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 3 Do not attempt to transport a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 4 Patient should be able to tolerate a mid-to-high seated position
- 5 It is not necessary to lock the brakes on the lift while mobilizing the patient
- 6 Ensure the lift battery is properly seated
- 7 If the lift is not responding, check the emergency stop; reset it to resume lifting functions
- 8 Place the sling behind the patient, tucking down to the base of the patient's hips
- 9 Tuck the legs of the sling under the legs of the patient, ensuring there is no bunching that may pinch the patient's skin during the lift, and the legs of the sling are even on each side of the patient
- 10 Ensure the sling straps are secure and in good condition
- 11 It may be necessary to adjust the width of the lift legs in order to appropriately mobilize the patient to a chair, wheelchair or bedside commode
- 12 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 13 You may need to unlock the brakes of the chair, as it may be necessary to make adjustments when lowering the patient



Ceiling Lift or Portable Gantry



- 1 At least two caregivers are required when using a ceiling lift or gantry; more caregivers may be needed to ensure patient safety
- 2 Position the gantry, ceiling rails, or room furniture to allow the lift to reach the destination surface for the patient mobilization
- 3 Raise the height of the gantry as needed, ensuring both sides are even and the lift is level
- 4 If the hand controller is not responding, check the emergency stop; press red button inward to resume function
- 5 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 6 Do not attempt to mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 7 Ensure patient's head is below the top of the sling and centered
- 8 Ensure the sling straps are secure and in good condition
- 9 At least one caregiver should support the patient at all times
- 10 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction before and during the mobilization procedure
- 11 Use the up/down buttons on the pendant controller to raise/lower the carry bar until the patient is just off the support surface, watching for limb clearance
- 12 It is not necessary to lock the brakes on the gantry while mobilizing the patient
- 13 Roll the gantry or gently move the patient as needed for the mobilization



Slide Sheets



- 1 Always inspect slide sheets before using. If they are thin, frayed, ripped, or torn, take them out of service right away according to facility protocol.
- 2 Slide sheets should always be used in a double layer between the patient and the support surface. One layer of slide sheet slides over another.
- 3 You can use slide sheets folded in half, or for greater coverage, two or more slide sheets may be used to create a double layer.
- 4 Slide sheets are very slippery. Do not throw them on the floor, even temporarily during a bed linen change. You could create a fall hazard.
- 5 Do not leave slide sheets unattended on a chair, bed, or other support surface.
- 6 Always store slide sheets securely when not in use in a cupboard, drawer, or bagged on a hook or hangar.
- 7 Continually supervise any patient when on a slide sheet.
- 8 Never leave a slide sheet under a patient who is unattended.
- 9 Promptly remove the slide sheet after mobilization is complete to protect your patient from sliding out of bed, from a chair, or other support surface.
- 10 Provide hands on guidance for any patient while on slide sheet when seated or lying near a bed or support surface edge. Always utilize safety rails when available.
- 11 Keep slide sheet away from the edge of any support surface except when transferring from one surface to another. Always provide hands on guidance when near any support surface edge. Be sure to remove the slide sheet promptly after the transfer.
- 12 Clean slide sheets if they become soiled or after several days of use with the same patient.
- 13 Reusable slide sheets should never be used on a different patient without laundering first.



Seated Transfer Board



- 1 The patient must be able to sit unsupported at the side of the bed
- 2 Place a folded slide sheet under the patient's posterior thigh and buttocks, ensure the slide sheet is not hanging over the edge of the mattress
- 3 Place the transfer board under the slide sheet and posterior thigh; the edge of the board should be visible between the patient's legs
- 4 With minimal assistance from the caregiver, the patient should be able to transfer to a bedside commode, chair or wheelchair
- 5 The seated slide board may be used with or without a slide sheet, based on the patient's mobilization needs
- 6 Never leave slide sheets under an unattended patient, on a chair, or on the bed
- 7 Store slide sheets safely when not in use. Never place slide sheets on the floor



Sit to Stand Lift



- 1 Patient should be able to sit at the edge of the bed unsupported and capable of at least 35% weight bearing on the lower extremities
- 2 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 3 Do not attempt to mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 4 Place the sling around the patient's lower back, adjust the belt as needed, and secure in front of the patient using the plastic clip
- 5 Without pulling or tugging, attach the sling loop closest to the patient's body that easily rests on the carry bar
- 6 The patient's feet should be firmly placed on the platform at the base of the sit to stand lift
- 7 Instruct the patient to grip the handholds on the lift carry bar
- 8 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 9 It is not necessary to lock the brakes on the lift while mobilizing the patient
- 10 It may be necessary to widen the legs of the lift to accommodate the width of the receiving surface



Turn & Position with Portable Lift and Repositioning Sling



- 1 At least two caregivers are required when using a lift; more caregivers may be needed to ensure patient safety
- 2 Always compare the weight of the patient with the weight capacity of the sling and the weight capacity of the lift
- 3 Do not attempt to turn or mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 4 Ensure patient's head is below the top of the sling and centered near the head placement tag
- 5 With tension in the sling straps, stop and check to ensure all straps are secure and the patient is comfortable
- 6 At least one caregiver should support the patient at all times
- 7 Provide the patient with constant communication and instruction regarding the mobilization procedure
- 8 To reduce friction and assist with positioning, place a folded slide sheet under the sling in the direction of the turn
- 9 Place a limb lifter under the patient's far lower extremity if needed and attach the strap to the carry bar
- 10 Support the patient's lower extremity during the lift
- 11 While one caregiver raises the lift, the second caregiver guides the patient
- 12 As the patient starts to turn, push gently against the patient's hips and shoulders to ensure they stay centered and away from the side rails
- 13 If the patient needs to remain in the side position, place pillows behind their back, remove the slide sheet and unhook the sling from the lift



Stand Aid



- 1 Patient must be able to comprehend and cooperate, sit on the side of the bed unsupported, and stand from bed or chair into frame of device
- 2 Patient must be able bear 100 % of body weight for at least five seconds and maintain balance while standing and seated
- 3 Do not attempt to mobilize a patient who is agitated, combative, or aggressive
- 4 The patient's feet should be firmly placed on the stand aid platform, wearing footwear as appropriate, while resting their shins on the shin pads
- 5 The brakes of the stand aid should be engaged prior to the patient attempting to stand
- 6 The caregiver should assist the patient to a standing position from the side of the stand aid
- 7 Medically complex patients with multiple lines, drains, or tubes may require a second caregiver to manage the lines while using a stand aid
- 8 Patients with dizziness, vertigo, orthostatic hypotension, or a history of syncope are not appropriate for the stand aid and require a different transfer
- 9 The brakes on the stand aid should not be released until the patient is comfortably seated on the split seat pads
- 10 Stand aid devices are recommended for short distance transfers, such as bed to toilet, wheelchair to treatment table or other support surface, and back again
- 11 The stand aid should be cleaned after every use with facility approved products and inspected regularly to ensure all moving parts such as brakes, seat pads, and casters are working properly



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