

Patient Handling Sling User Comments

(in UNITED KINGDOM)

"The majority of nurses have appreciated their value, especially day and night nurses working with elderly and dependant patients. The night staff are particularly keen as they are quieter and quicker than the use of a hoist at night." **Clinical Teacher, NHS Hospital, Kent**

"We are very pleased with the Patient Handling Slings and the care staff really appreciate having the strain on their backs relieved." **Resident Physiotherapist, Residential Home, Kent**

"I am very impressed with the Slings. They have proved most useful with our elderly residents."

Owner, Residential Home, Cornwall

"The nurses have realised the benefit of the Sling, not only for ease of moving from a variety of positions, but the comfort and lack of strain needed on their part." **Senior Nurse, NHS Hospital, Cornwall**

"I am interested in using these excellent Slings on a geriatric ward in which I work." **Ward Sister, NHS Hospital, Kent**

"We are very impressed and would like a further four pairs." **Ward Sister, Private Hospital, Richmond**

(in USA)

"St Luke's Nursing Home initially purchased one Sling on a trial basis. Because there was an overwhelmingly positive response from the staff, four more were purchased. As usage and staff acceptance grew, ten more were purchased and placed in specific resident rooms. The ultimate goal is to have one Sling in each room." **Assistant Director of Nursing**

"The residents say it really feels better, no tugging or pulling on their skin." **Nursing Aide**

"The Sling really works." **Nursing Aide**

"The Slings are becoming quite popular and I would like to order for our remaining ambulances. We have found they allow greater patient comfort in the transfer of the elderly in particular. It cuts down on the possibility of back injury." **Paramedic Unit**

"We have found it be useful in the transfer of patients when copious body secretions are involved, creating a health risk to the crew." **Paramedics Dept**

"The use of the sling puts less strain on the using personnel's back. The patients felt lighter and easier to handle. Use of the Sling did not cause friction burns and was found to be comfortable for the patient." **Hospital study**

MEDesign's moving and handling products include:



other MEDesign products to help relieve back pain include:



MEDesign® Ltd

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MEDesign® Patient Handling Sling

Product Reference PHS



DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Simple to use.
- Effective in operation.
- Easy to clean and store.
- Staff and patient friendly.
- Versatile.
- Low cost.

All the objectives have been met.



DEVELOPMENT

- First conceived by Dr Troup, PhD, MRCS, LRCP, MFOM, FErgs, and an internationally acknowledged figure in the field of orthopaedics and occupational health, whose aim was to reduce the load on carers' backs when moving patients.
- The Patient Handling Sling achieved this aim and was introduced in 1983.
- Following pre-purchase evaluations, the Sling has been purchased by every UK Health Authority and Trust and is widely used in hospitals and community nursing and by ambulance and fire services.
- Since 1993, and the introduction of new legislation in the Health Services, the Sling has continued to prove beneficial when used in conjunction with the wide range of sliding and turning devices which are now available for moving patients. See our Back Pack catalogue.

SLING SPECIFICATION

Dimensions	: 510 x 205 x 3mm; handholds 25 x 100mm
Weight	: 400 gm
Breaking Strain	: 30MPa (BS2782) equivalent to 1500kg
Flexibility	: -30°C
Elongation at break	: >500%

The sling is moulded from a polymer which has exceptional physical properties combining high tensile strength with low stretch plus extremely good flexibility and durability.

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The MEDesign Patient Handling Sling is one of a range of innovative products designed and manufactured by MEDesign. For full information, contact MEDesign Ltd at the address above.

Moving & Handling with the MEDesign Patient Handling Sling

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. In normal use, place textured side next to patient and smooth side next to sheet. Also see page opposite for general advice and some contra indications.
2. The Sling works by making the carers' arms effectively longer. Because of this they do not have to bend so far forward to reach round or under the patient. With the Sling they can keep their back more upright, avoid twisting and can gain a mechanical advantage to help in the manoeuvre. The Sling therefore makes it easier to help the patient.
3. But, TAKE NOTE, the Sling does not reduce the weight of a patient though it may allow a better technique to be used.
4. Do NOT use the Patient Handling Sling to enable you to move a patient who would otherwise be too heavy. It is not designed to be used with all patients, but only to make the appropriate moving and handling of suitable, assessed patients easier.
5. MEDesign does recommend that users of the Sling receive training in the principles of patient handling, and practical training in the use of the Sling, from qualified professional instructors who are familiar with its use.
6. The MEDesign Patient Handling Sling can be used to advantage in conjunction with a wide range of sliding and turning devices which are now available for moving patients. See our Back Pack catalogue for full details.

AGEING AND OBSOLESCENCE

The MEDesign Sling is manufactured from a stabilised polymer material which should not unduly age over its expected life. Ageing of polymers can occur under strong UV light such as prolonged exposure to direct strong sunlight, or by heat or by prolonged contact with oxidising or reducing chemicals. Store under cool, dry conditions. **Any Sling which shows any signs of discolouration or brittleness by the flexibility test - see Maintenance Advice Sheet supplied with product - should be discarded.**

For record purposes only and always subject to the flexibility test the useful service life of the MEDesign Patient Handling Sling should be regarded as five years.

SLING CLEANING/DISINFECTION

As with any equipment which contacts the patient, the Sling may be soiled by body fluids or other contaminants which may then serve as a source of infection. Regular cleaning by wiping over with your normal disinfecting medium is necessary. Do NOT allow the Sling to soak in disinfecting media, do NOT autoclave the Sling, do NOT irradiate the Sling: these will degrade the Sling polymer. If the label on the Sling becomes cracked or split it should be removed to avoid damage to the patient's skin and to reduce the risk of harbouring contamination. If preferred, the Sling can be supplied without the label.

CAUTION

The risks associated with moving and handling tasks are complex and each situation must be assessed on its own merits.

It is unwise for carers to follow the instructions in our literature without proper assessment of the individual case. MEDesign Ltd cannot accept responsibility for any consequences which may result from decisions made solely upon the basis of advice given herein.

PATIENT AND CARER SAFETY: CHECK EACH SLING BEFORE EVERY USE
SEE MAINTENANCE ADVICE SHEET SUPPLIED WITH PRODUCT

The following list summarises some of the basic points that must be considered before any moving and handling task is performed. The list is not exhaustive, and should be used in conjunction with advice from your qualified professional instructor and other reference material that is available.

- Manual handling should be avoided wherever possible. Always try to use a mechanical device which does not involve you in load bearing. If you must move a patient manually always try to slide them as opposed to lifting.
- If the Patient Handling Sling is too "small" for a patient, you should NOT be using the Sling with that patient - USE A HOIST.
- Do not use the Sling in "water" situations - it may slip on wet skin.
- Do not use the Sling if the patient has been powdered with talc, the Sling will become very slippery.
- The Sling is not recommended for use with patients with sensitive, sticky or fragile skin.
- The Sling is not recommended for turning prone patients.
- Move in short stages in one direction at a time - do NOT twist. Use dynamic abdominal bracing to brace your lower back.
- Uniforms should allow easy movement. Shoes should have low heels.
- Patient arms and legs are NOT handles with which to move them.
- Protect patients' heels against friction when moving (Teri-Tred slippers can help with this).
- Move with the patient, NOT against them.

The MEDesign Patient Handling Sling can be used in conjunction with a wide range of other handling aids such as Slide Sheets, Sliding Boards, Turntable Transfer Discs and Transfer Boards - see the MEDesign Back Pack catalogue for details of these and other products.