

# Oxford<sup>®</sup>

## Sling Guide



 **Joerns**  
Healthcare

Redefining patient handling

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# Introduction

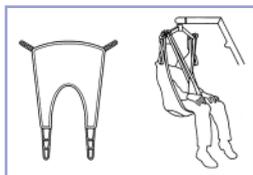
A sling is an item of moving and handling equipment that is used with a mechanical lift in order to facilitate the transfer of a patient. A sling comprises a specially designed and constructed piece of fabric that is placed under and around a patient before being attached to the cradle/spreader bar of a lift to raise, transfer and lower the patient.

When selected and used correctly, a sling and lift will achieve a safer transfer, reducing the risks associated with manual handling.



## Sling Models

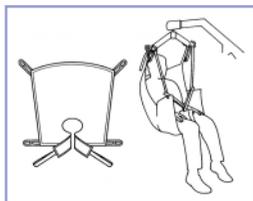
The Oxford range of slings has been designed with a number of features aimed at meeting varied lifting requirements and applications. Each sling is described briefly below. Note FIM scores have been provided as an assessment tool to classify a person's function from independence to total assistance in 7 levels. See page 7 for classifications details.



### Quickfit/Universal Sling (Spreader Bar: 6 Point)

This sling is an easy-to-fit, general-purpose sling designed to suit 85% of patients. It is simple to use and is available in sizes XS to XL.

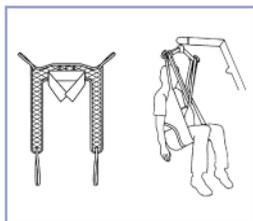
FIM Scores: 1 and 2 and any other person from the floor



### Quickfit Deluxe Sling (Spreader Bar: 6 Point)

This sling is a development of the Quickfit design and is suitable for 95% of patients. It can be used for amputees following assessment, and is available in sizes XS to XL.

FIM Scores: 1 and 2 and any other person from the floor

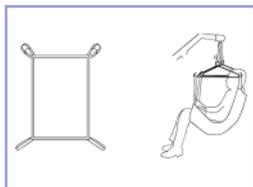


### Access/Toileting Sling (6 Point/4 Point)

This sling is designed specifically to facilitate the toileting procedure by allowing the removal of clothing. It is NOT a general-purpose sling and will suit only 25% of patients. Patients must be in a sitting position to use this sling. Available with or without head support.

FIM Scores: 2 or 3 following careful assessment

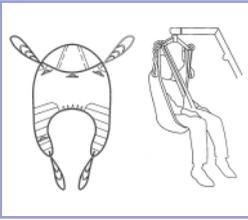
*An assessment MUST be carried out when using the access sling as it can be unsafe when used on the wrong patient.*



### Long Seat Sling (Spreader Bar: 6 Point)

This sling can only be put on or removed in a lying position and is most commonly used with an amputee. This sling also needs to be used in conjunction with side suspenders.

FIM Scores: 1 or 2 following careful assessment



### Full Back Sling (Spreader Bar: 6 Point)

This is a more specialised sling. It incorporates integral boned head support and padded leg pieces and is available in sizes XS to XL. The correct size will fit snugly and give full protection for patients who go into extension or have involuntary movements or behavioural problems. Disposable versions also available.

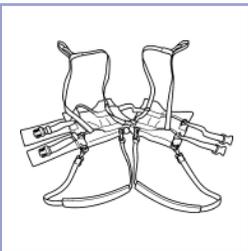
FIM Scores: 1 and 2 and any other person from the floor



### Comfort Sling (Cradle: 4 Point)

This is a more specialised sling. It allows correct positioning to be made via the 4 point cradle and uses the Securi3 sling connection system ensuring no inadvertent detachment of the sling from the cradle. It incorporates a removable comfort pad for head support and fits snugly to give full protection for patients who go into extension or have involuntary movements or behavioural problems. It is available in all sizes from XS to XL. Disposable versions also available.

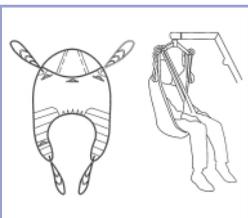
FIM Scores: 1 and 2 and any other person from the floor



### Standing Harness (Spreader Bar: 6 Point)

The Standing Harness is a versatile sling with a wide range of uses. This includes assisting with standing and walking or visiting the toilet. The Standing Harness supports the patient around the upper body as well as under the arms. The Standing Harness is not a general-purpose sling and requires the patient to be able to partially weight bear.

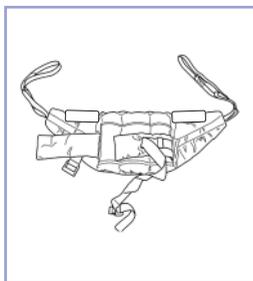
FIM Scores: 2 or 3 following careful assessment



### Silkfit Sling (Spreader Bar: 6 Point)

The Silkfit Sling is a flexible contoured, easy to fit sling designed to fit 85-90% of clients. This sling is especially suited to patients in moulded type wheelchair systems where fitting of the sling can prove difficult. It has integrated, boned head support and leg padding as standard. Available in four sizes - paediatric, small, medium and large.

FIM Scores: 1 and 2 and any other person from the floor



## Standing Sling (Stand-aid)

The standing sling is suitable for those patients who have a greater degree of weight bearing ability. It allows excellent access for toileting and is easy to fit, providing quick and effective transfers. The adjustable waist strap and the non-slip back pad ensures the sling does not ride up during the transfer. This sling can be unsafe however, when used with the wrong patient, so a careful risk assessment is advised. Available in three sizes - small, medium and large.

FIM Scores: 3 and 4



## Transport Sling (Stand-aid)

The transport sling is suitable for those patients with a degree of weight bearing ability. It is easy to fit, allowing quick and effective transfers. Available in three sizes - small, medium and large.

FIM Scores: 2, 3 and 4

### Please note:

It is very important to use the correct sized sling and ensure it is properly fitted before attempting to lift. This will ensure the person being lifted feels safe, dignified and comfortable.

It will also provide a carer with confidence that they can achieve the transfer required and that the procedure will be executed in an effective and safe manner.

This guide aims to assist those responsible for the provision of slings by outlining some key factors to be addressed in the selection of the most appropriate type of sling for a patient. Guidance is then given as to which sling from the OXFORD range will best meet these requirements.

OXFORD has an extensive range of slings. Our slings are a reflection on many years of refinements that make our range one of the most comfortable and flexible in the market place today.



# FIM Score

A widely used assessment tool to classify a person's function from independence to total assistance in 7 levels.

## What are the 7 levels?

<p><b>Independent</b></p>	<p><b>7. Complete Independence</b> Another person is not required for the activity which is performed safely without modification or outside assistance within a reasonable time.</p> <p><b>6. Modified Independence</b> Activity requires one or more of the following: an assistive device, more than reasonable time or safety (risk) considerations.</p>
<p><b>Dependent</b></p>	<p><b>5. Supervision or set up</b> Someone required to help by observation or encouragement without contact.</p> <p><b>4. Minimal Assistance</b> Someone required to help - by touching - subject makes 75% or more of the effort.</p> <p><b>3. Moderate Assistance</b> Someone required to help by more than touching - subject makes 50% - 75% of the effort.</p>
<p><b>Complete Dependence</b></p>	<p><b>2. Maximal Assistance</b> Complete dependence. Subject makes less than 50% but at least 25% of effort.</p> <p><b>1. Total Assistance</b> Complete dependence. Subject makes less than 25% of effort.</p>

Please note that staff in ALL areas must have immediate access to at least one mobile passive hoist for use in the event of an emergency such as the retrieval of a patient who has fallen. A passive hoist suitable for a very heavy person should also be accessible within the facility/hospital and all staff should be aware of the system for accessing the hoist as required. (For example: in the event of an unplanned admission of a very heavy patient into Accident and Emergency).

# Oxford Sling Features

Oxford slings have many common attributes that make them easier to use, and easier to train with.



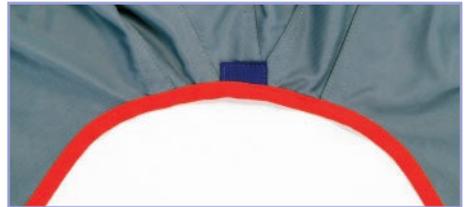
Coloured binding provides clear recognised size information.



Coloured loop straps that provide adjustment and the correct angle positioning for the 6-point spreader bar system.



Clear labels provide all the information required together with a line drawing showing how our slings fit.



Centerline markers aid the carer in the correct positioning of the sling, especially when inserting the sling before an off the bed or floor transfer.



Leg support widths (1) offer optimal support, while not cutting into the knee or groin area, and modesty loops (2) stop the patient's legs from splaying while transferring.





The angles of the straps are carefully calculated to ensure the correct posture and comfort of the patient.



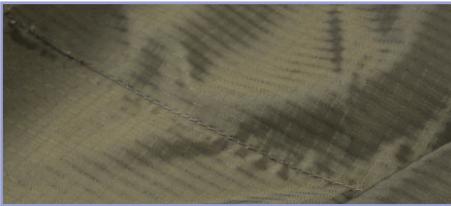
Handles on the sides of our slings are optimised to ensure correct handling.



Oxford's standard range of slings are made from polyester making them durable yet comfortable.



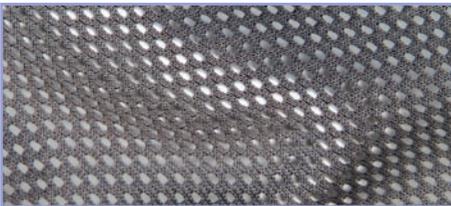
Padding provides additional comfort and support to delicate areas and our webbing straps have covered ends to protect patient's skin.



Oxford's Silkfit sling incorporates a nylon material which makes fitting easier. This sling is especially suited to patients in moulded-type wheelchairs.



The grey colour of our standard polyester slings means contamination is easy to spot - but the polyester fabric isn't prone to staining, and is easily laundered.



Net slings are ideal in wet environments, providing rapid draining and drying.

## Sling Accessories



Head supports ensure correct positioning during transfer.



Head/Neck Roll



Extension straps allow adjustment to the length of the existing sling straps that connect to a patient lift. (Available as an optional accessory).

## Spreader Bar/Cradle Option

The OXFORD professional lift range has the option of two cradles that provide the carer greater choice in selecting the most appropriate sling and cradle for the task. The Presence, Advance and Stature can be used with either the 6-point spreader bar or 4-point positioning cradles. Both cradles have their place, but more importantly it allows the carer to choose exactly the correct sling for the patient and task in question.



6-point spreader bar

## 6-point Spreader Bar

The 6-point spreader bar uses slings with webbing loops that allow positioning adjustments to be made by selecting the different coloured loops. The attachment straps at shoulder level determine the position of the back, ranging from upright through to semi-reclined and reclined. Similarly, the attachment straps at the legs determine the approximate degree of flexion at the hip, from around 90° to 45°.

The position achieved by adjusting the loops will depend upon the height and build of the patient. The rule of thumb is the shorter the shoulder straps the more upright the client will be.



4-point positioning cradle  
(electric version shown)

## 4-point Positioning Cradle

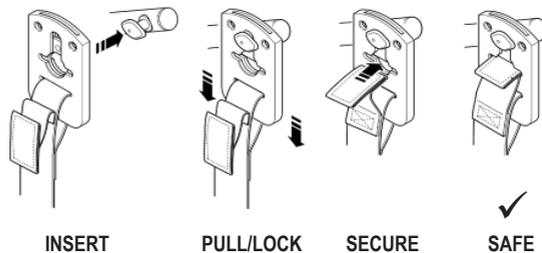
The 4-point positioning cradle uses the Securi3 safety clip system and adjustment is made by rotating the cradle handle either down or up to obtain an upright or reclined position for the patient. Both manual and powered cradles are available.



4-point shallow cradle  
(Manual - Advance lift only)

## Securi3 Sling Attachment System (4-point cradle only)

*The 3 key stages assures the patient and carer of safety and comfort throughout the transfer.*



*Note: The Comfort sling utilises the Securi3 clip system and is designed to ensure NO inadvertent detachment occurs.*

## Range of Sizes

Most slings are available in a range of sizes to accommodate variety in height, shape and weight of patients. All these factors must be taken into consideration when selecting the appropriate sling for the patient. Sizes are available from XS to XL and full details on our slings can be found in our order form.



## Weight Capacity

The safe working load is clearly stated on the sling label. This can vary dependent on sling type so always check the label before use.



(Example)

**Note:**

*Remember to check the safe working load of the hoist prior to lifting a patient as it may differ to that of the sling.*

# Identification Label



The identification label provides essential information about the sling such as:

- Model reference number
- Type of sling
- Size
- Testing mark (CE or similar)
- Date of manufacture
- Care instructions
- Safe working Load (SWL)
- Bar code (not shown)
- Identification picture

**Note:** Each sling includes a unique serial number to enable traceability. This is particularly useful when completing inspection and audit records.

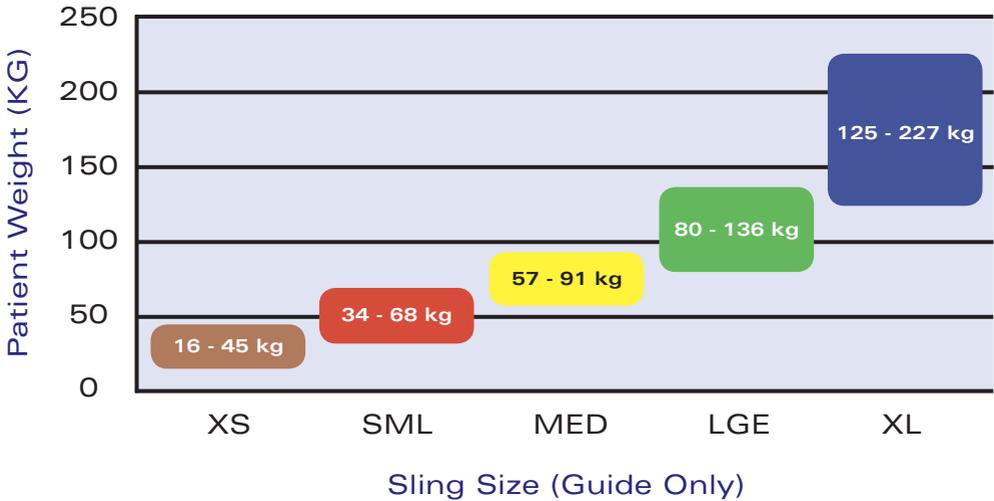
# User Guide

A detailed user guide is provided with all slings. It contains essential information concerning machine washing and general care of the sling.

# Sling Safety Information (guidance)

- Maximum wash temp: 85°, non-biological washing powder
- Do not tumble dry at high temperature
- Ability to wash helps against MRSA

## Size & Weight Range Guide (approx.)



**Please Note:** The above weight recommendation chart provides an approximate indication of sling size based on patient weight. Joerns Healthcare always recommends a full risk assessment is conducted to ascertain the most suitable size of sling based on a patient's measurements rather than weight only.

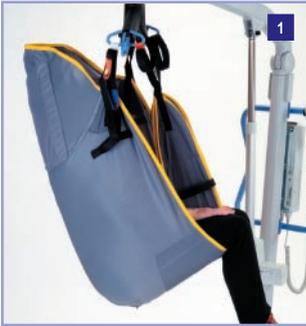
## Other Considerations for Slings

Alternative fabrics are available as SPECIAL ORDERS. Please note, there is an extended lead-time for these (typically 4-5 weeks). Please consult your OXFORD representative for details.



# Sling Support Levels and Commode Apertures

Different types of slings provide different levels of support for the patient being lifted. The support level is determined by the shape and structure of the fabric, with the main body of the sling providing support to the back and head (photo 1) and the leg straps providing support to the thighs, hips and buttocks (photos 3/4). The shape of the sling will also determine the presence and size of a commode aperture (photo 2 below).





# Selecting the Best Type of Sling

Selecting a sling for an individual patient involves more than simply measuring their size and deciding what the sling will be used for. Basic factors to take into consideration are the level of support required from the sling and whether a commode aperture is necessary. However, to be sure that a sling meets specific requirements and is the most appropriate sling available, many further aspects need to be considered as part of the selection process. Some of these are discussed briefly here.

## **Information About the Tasks:**

In order to be sure that the sling selected will be suited to its required use, it is necessary to determine the type of transfer task(s) that are desired, together with the frequency with which they will occur. This relates closely to the functional requirements of the sling. (for instance: a sling that is to be used for toileting will require a commode aperture). See Access sling listed on page 4.

## **Information About the Carer(s) or Handler(s):**

When selecting slings, it is important to be mindful of the person(s) who will be fitting the sling and using the lift. Their abilities and limitations - especially experience and training - must be considered. Some slings are more complicated than others to fit and a handler may be reluctant to use a sling if the process of fitting it is too complex. The number of carers available to fit the sling as well as the total number of carers involved in a patient's care may also be important considerations - a range of carers may have a range of capabilities.

## Information About Other Equipment



It is necessary to establish the sling's compatibility with other equipment, especially the lift and the lifting system. It is also important to identify any associated equipment that is involved in transfers, such as seating, beds, trolleys, toilets and play or therapy equipment to ascertain that the lift and sling will work effectively with these items.

## Selecting the Type of Sling for the Most Common Tasks

To simplify the process of sling selection, OXFORD has developed a chart to guide you in the appropriate use of each sling and task. There will, of course, be exceptions to this guide, but this reference enables a view of what tasks can be completed.

Sling Model	OXFORD Lift (Example)	Toilet	Commode to bath (2)	Chair to chair	Bed to chair	Floor to bed	Chair to commode	Rehab Assisted Standing
Access	Advance/Midi 170	■		■			■	
Quick Fit Del	Advance/Midi 170	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Quick Fit	Advance/Midi 170	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Full Back/Silkfit	Advance/Midi 170	■		■	■	■	■	
Long Seat	Advance/Midi 170	■ (1)			■	■		
Comfort	Stature/Presence (3)	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Standing	Journey/Standaid 140	■		■	■		■	■
Transport	Journey/Standaid 140	■		■	■		■	
Standing Harness	Stature/Presence	■						■

(1) Where purchased with a commode aperture.

(2) Use only with a net version.

(3) When used with the 4-point cradle.



## Clinical Support/Advice

Support is available upon request to assist Joerns Healthcare customers by providing clinical information and advice in relation to Oxford slings and other products.

## Moving and Handling Training

The correct equipment coupled with appropriate training can help to minimise the risks associated with manual handling. Joerns Healthcare has developed a comprehensive range of moving and handling training programmes aimed at meeting the needs of all practitioners/carers. Programmes are flexible, with courses designed to suit individual circumstances and needs. The overall aim is to create "a safer environment" for all.

For details, please consult your local Oxford representative.

Joerns Healthcare training programmes are CPD certified.



## Sling Selector Tool - New for 2011

For more guidance on sling selection, why not try Oxford's Sling Selector. This useful web-based tool is designed to help therapists and end-users select the most appropriate sling based on patient, task and equipment variables. Visit [www.joerns.co.uk](http://www.joerns.co.uk) to access the tool.

## About Joerns Healthcare

Joerns Healthcare provides the complete solution to moving and handling with a range of compatible lifts, slings and accessories designed to meet the needs of both patient and carer. Besides slings, the Oxford patient handling range includes:

- Ceiling mounted lifts
- Mobile lifts
- Extended warranty and service options
- Moving and handling training packages

We trust you have found this guide both useful and informative.



Oxford®



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