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# Lifts and Slings: Can you Mix and Match? The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines

April 12, 2016




SAFE LIFT  
EQUIPMENT

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## Agenda

- Introductions
- History of the AASPHM Sling Safety Committee
- Committee goals and background
- Purpose of this meeting
- Review draft guidance document outline and general themes



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## AASPHM Sling Safety Committee

Lynda Enos, RN, MS, COHN-S, CPE, Committee Co-Chair	AASPHM & HumanFit, LLC.
Lori Severson, MS, HEM, CSP, Committee Co-Chair	AASPHM & Lockton Companies, LLC
Pat Alexander, MSc, PGDip, PGCE	National Back Exchange, UK
Teresa Boynton, MS, OTR, CSPHP	Formerly with Banner Health
Lena L. Deter, MPH, RN, CSPHP, LTC-SSC	DELHEC Educational Services & Consulting
Traci Galinsky, Ph.D.	NIOSH & AASPHM advisor
Tim Kuzma	Alpha Modalities, LLC.
Carys Price, PT, MS, CEASII, CSPHP	Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals (ASPHM)
Franciner (Diane) Riley, RKT, MS	Dorn U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Pat Vanderheiden	Vancare, Inc.
Pippa Wright	Workplace Risk Management Consultancy, Australia


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## History of the AASPHM Sling Safety Committee

- 2012 FDA release guidance statement about safe use of slings and lifts:
 

“The FDA has compiled a list **a best practices** that, when followed, can help mitigate the risks associated with patient lifts. Users of patient lifts should:

**Match the sling to the specific lift and the weight of the patient. A sling must be approved for use by the patient lift manufacturer. No sling is suitable for use with all patient lifts.”**



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## History of the AASPHM Sling Safety Committee

- **2013 - March: Meeting at the SPHM conference – 90 attendees**
- **2013 – August: Inter-organizational Sling Safety Committee formed.**
- **2013- present: Committee has met monthly to develop a sling safety guidance document i.e. is 'The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines'**



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## History of the AASPHM Sling Safety Committee

- **2014 - March: 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting at the national SPHM conference to review work to date**
- **2014 – Sling survey completed**
- **2015 – Draft guidelines released for public comment**
- **2016 – Final Guidelines released on [www.aasphm.org](http://www.aasphm.org)**



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## Committee Goals

- To develop industry guidelines on sling and lift hanger bar compatibility in the US
- To identify a process for the regulation of sling production, testing and compatibility in the US
- To collaborate with the FDA to clarify (or possibly expand) their statement on sling and lift compatibility to reflect current evidence base and industry best practice



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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines

### Background

- Focus is slings and hanger bar compatibility only
- The guidelines are based upon:
  - Existing sling and lift design standards e.g. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 10535:2006 Hoists for the transfer of disabled persons
  - Guidelines and standards from government bodies, healthcare planning, design and construction organizations, equipment manufacturers, and professional organizations such as the American Nurses Association (ANA)



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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines Background

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- The guidelines are based upon:
  - Review of mandatory reports to the FDA via the Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience (MAUDE) database
  - Articles published in peer reviewed journals
  - Expert opinion based upon safe patient handling and mobility practices
  - The survey of sling and lift manufacturers, retailers and users of healthcare recipient slings and conducted from 2013 to 2014.



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## Goal of the Guidelines

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- To provide information and recommendations about the compatibility of healthcare recipient slings and lift hanger bars.
- Assist healthcare facilities and organizations, healthcare workers, sling and lift manufacturers, and retailers to facilitate safe use of slings and lift hanger bars in any setting where healthcare recipients are lifted, moved and mobilized.



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## Goal of the Guidelines

- The guidelines offer a framework for reducing the risk of incorrect use of slings and lift hanger bars by healthcare workers through standardization of:
  - the design
  - inspection practices
  - use and
  - care of healthcare recipient slings
  
- It is the responsibility of individual health care organizations to determine how the information contained in these guidelines is adopted.



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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines Outline

- Introduction & Background
- Sections:
  - Defining Slings and Hanger Bars
  - Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility
  - Sling Design and Testing
  - Laundering Slings
  - Sling and Hanger Bar Inspection Process
  - Hanger Bar – Design
  - Maintenance – Slings & Hanger Bar only
  - Education and Training
  - Healthcare Recipient Assessment for SPHM




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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines Outline

- Glossary
- References
- Other Useful Resources
- Appendix I
  - Summary of MAUDE report and other incidents related to the use of slings in lifting and transferring healthcare recipients




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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines Outline

- Appendix II
  - Guide to common home laundering and dry cleaning symbols
- Appendix III
  - Slings and safe patient handling 2014 survey too



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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>15</sup>

### Key Themes

#### Sling and Lift Manufacturers

1. Lift and sling manufacturers should meet current design, manufacturing and testing standards as required by ISO 10535 (2006) and FDA design of medical product standards.
2. Manufacturers of hanger bars and/or slings should indicate what style(s)/type(s) of hanger bar is compatible with their slings. Manufacturers should indicate 2, 3, 4, 6 and/or 8-point hanger bar compatibility.



## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>16</sup>

### Key Themes

#### Sling and Lift Manufacturers

3. Sling manufacturers should clearly state the method by which a sling can be adjusted or removed from a hanger bar in the accompanying operating instructions.
4. Sling sizing should be standardized by color for all manufacturers (*recommended by the committee*)

Sling labels should contain standardized information as detailed in Section IV.

**SLING DESIGN AND TESTING** by all manufacturers





## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>17</sup>

### Key Themes

#### Health Care Organizations/Facilities

1. When purchasing patient lifting devices (lifts, attachments and slings), the organization/facility should ensure the devices comply with relevant standards (e.g. ISO 10535). Current purchasing or supply chain management processes should be evaluated to ensure this criterion is included.
2. Clip and loop slings should never be used interchangeably. A sling with a clip attachment should only be used on a hanger bar that is designed for a clip attachment. A sling with a loop attachment should only be used on a hanger bar designed for a loop system.



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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>18</sup>

### Key Themes

#### Health Care Organizations/Facilities

3. When possible, standardization of lifts, hanger bars and slings is recommended within a setting to reduce the risk of healthcare worker error and simplify training. A setting using lifts with hanger bars accommodating loop slings should avoid, when possible, the use of lifts with hanger bars accommodating clip slings.
4. If special needs should arise requiring a mix of hanger bars and sling types, the facility must take precautions to prevent healthcare worker error, such as labeling of hanger bars to indicate use with the appropriate sling and additional training for staff in appropriate use of hanger bars & slings.



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## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines 19

### Key Themes

#### Health Care Organizations/Facilities

5. Slings should be laundered and maintained per sling manufacturers' instructions. (*Refer to Section V of this document.*)
6. It is critical that slings and hanger bars are inspected prior to each use. If they are worn or damaged they must not be used and must be removed from service. (*Refer to Section VI of this document.*)
7. All clips, latches, loops and hanger bars must remain securely fastened during operation of a lift.



## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines 20

### Key Themes

#### Health Care Organizations/Facilities

8. Healthcare recipient assessment for SPHM should be conducted before using any sling and lift for a particular healthcare recipient, regardless of whether the manufacturer of the sling and lift are the same or different. (*Refer to Section X of this document.*)
9. It is critical that a sling be compatible with a specific lift and meet the weight, shape and clinical needs of the healthcare recipient.



## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>21</sup>

### Key Themes

#### Health Care Organizations/Facilities

- 10.** Purchasers of healthcare recipient lifts and slings should read and/or receive oral instructions provided by the sling and lift manufacturer in order to safely operate the device.
  
- 11.** Healthcare workers should receive employer-sponsored training and demonstrate understanding of how to safely use healthcare recipient lifts and slings. (*Refer to Section IX of this document.*)



## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>22</sup>

### Key Themes

#### Health Care Organizations/Facilities

- 12.** A system should be established to define how to properly clean, disinfect, maintain, repair, and upgrade lifts, slings, and other Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) technology. SPHM technology may include equipment, devices, accessories and software.



## Questions

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### The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines 2016

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Thank You



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## **Lifts and Slings: Can you Mix and Match?**

The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines  
Meeting held April 12, 2016 at the Renaissance Hotel, Glendale AZ

Lynda Enos Committee Co-Chair opened the meeting with a slide presentation the agenda which included describing the history and background of the project; the goals of the committee; and the key themes in the document (see slides for details). Patient lifts and slings are categorized by the FDA as a class I medical device. Confusion existed around the FDA statement regarding hanger bar and sling compatibility.

After the slides were reviewed, questions were solicited from those in attendance.

### **Audience questions included:**

1. Where were no “end-users” included on the committee?

A: End users participated in the survey, public comment and were represented by the committee participants.

2. Would you consider size standards that include sizes for pediatrics and bariatric?

A: Sling size guide is only an example to illustrate what the industry could develop as a consensus.

3. Could the document consider color system for straps or loops on slings?

A: This would be a part of standards to be developed in the future.

4. How can the guidance document become part of the global standardization through ISO standards for manufacturers?

A: Next steps will be outlined.

5. As technology changes and evolves, what is the plan to address new items as they are developed?

A: It is recognized that the document will need to have revisions and addendums.

6. Are you aware that Canadian standards (CSA 10535-2) will soon be released to address this topic in Canada?

A: Great minds think alike!

7. Would you welcome the National Back Exchange from the United Kingdom to participate?

A: Yes.

8. Is there regulation that pertains to disposable slings related to recycling?

A: This topic was beyond the scope of this document.