




## Let's Get Connected: All You Ever Need to Know About Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility

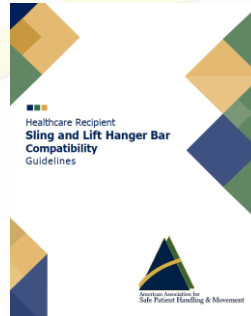
**Lynda Enos, RN, MS, COHN-S, CPE**  
 AASPHM Sling Safety Committee Co-Chair  
 HumanFit, LLC

**Lena L. Deter, MPH, RN, CSPHP, LTC-SSC**  
 AASPHM Sling Safety Committee Member  
 DELHEC Educational Services & Consulting

[www.aasphm.org](http://www.aasphm.org)

## Outline

- Purpose of this session – what do you want to know?
- History of the AASPHM Sling Safety Committee
- Sling safety committee goals and background
- Review guidance document section and key themes
- Questions



### 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 (ASPHP)
Franciner (Diane) Riley, RKT, MS	Dorn U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Pat Vanderheiden	Vancare, Inc.
Pippa Wright	Workplace Risk Management Consultancy, Australia


## History

- 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.”**

Source: [www.FDA.org](http://www.FDA.org)




## History

- 2013 - March: Meeting at the SPHM conference – 90 attendees
- 2013 - August: Inter-organizational Sling Safety Committee formed.
- 2013 - 2016: Committee has met monthly to develop a sling safety guidance document i.e. is ‘The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines’



## History

- 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) and presented at the national SPHM conference 2016
- The guidelines can also be found at [www.hcergo.org](http://www.hcergo.org) and at [www.asphp.org](http://www.asphp.org)



## 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



## 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)



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

- 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
  - A survey of sling and lift manufacturers, retailers and users of healthcare recipient slings and conducted in 2014.



## Goal of the Guidelines

- 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.



## 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.



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

- I. Introduction & Background
- II. Defining Slings and Hanger Bars
- III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility
- IV. Sling Design and Testing
- V. Laundering Slings
- VI. Sling and Hanger Bar Inspection Process
- VII. Hanger Bar – Design
- VIII. Maintenance – Slings & Hanger Bar only
- IX. Education and Training
- X. Healthcare Recipient Assessment for SPHM



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



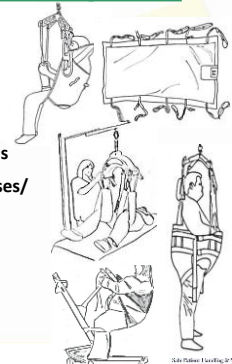
## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines

### II. Defining Slings and Hanger Bars

#### A. Slings

#### B. Sling styles

- Seated
- Repositioning/turning
- Limb slings and turning bands
- Walking/ambulating harnesses/gait trainers
- Sit-to-stand belts or slings
- Specialty slings
- Rigid body slings



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

### II. Defining Slings and Hanger Bars

#### C. Sling – fabrics

- Reusable:
- Fabric Wipeable
- Disposable or single 'patient' (healthcare recipient) use

#### D. Sling attachment points

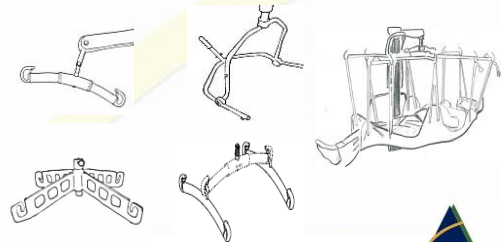


## The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines

### II. Defining Slings and Hanger Bars

#### E. Hanger bars/spreader bars

2 – 3 - 4 & multiple configuration



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

### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

#### A. 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

### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

#### A. 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. Adoption of universal labeling identification system i.e. sling sizing should be standardized by color for all types of slings where applicable (*recommended by the committee*)

Sling labels should contain standardized information as detailed in Section IV. *SLING DESIGN AND TESTING*



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### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

**Example for seated slings**

- Red edging on Small slings with the letter 'S' or word 'Small' in red text and a weight guide of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs./kg
- Yellow edging on Medium slings with the letter 'M' or word 'Medium' in yellow text and a weight guide of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs./kg
- Green edging on Large slings with the letter 'L' and or word 'Large' in green text and a weight guide of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs./kg
- Purple edging on XL Large slings with the letter 'XL' and or word 'X Large' in purple text and a weight guide of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs./kg
- White edging on XXL Large slings with the letter 'XXL' or word 'XX Large' in white text and a weight guide of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs./kg

Sling Size Guide	
	Weight Range
Small	31-75 lbs. 14-34 kg
Medium	75-145 lbs. 34-66 kg
Large	145-220 lbs. 66-100 kg
XLarge	220-440 lbs. 100-200 kg
XXLarge	440-800 lbs. 200-363 kg

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### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

**B. 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).
2. Clip and loop slings should never be used interchangeably.
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.

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### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

**B. Health Care Organizations/Facilities**

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.
5. Slings should be laundered and maintained per sling manufacturers' instructions.
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.

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### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

**B. Health Care Organizations/Facilities**

7. All clips, latches, loops and hanger bars must remain securely fastened during operation of a lift.
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.
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.

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### III. Sling and Hanger Bar Compatibility

**B. Health Care Organizations/Facilities**

10. Purchasers of healthcare recipient lifts and slings should read and/or receive oral operating instructions provided by the sling and lift manufacturer
11. Healthcare workers should receive employer-sponsored training and demonstrate understanding of how to safely use healthcare recipient lifts and slings.
12. A system should be established to define how to properly clean, disinfect, maintain, repair, and upgrade lifts, slings, and other SPHM technology.

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### IV. Sling Design and Testing

- A. Sling labels
- B. Fabric of the slings identified
- C. Flammability standards – optional to report
- D. Load testing per ISO 10535
- E. Sling sizing –as in Section III.

**ABC Company Seated Sling Series**

Attaches to a 2, 3, or 4 pt Loop Compatible Hanger Bar  
Maximum/Safe Working Load 1000lbs/454kg

**⚠ This sling must be inspected before each use  
Do Not Use if Damaged – Do Not Repair**

Sling Size Guide	
	Weight Range
Small	31-75 lbs. 14-34 kg

[?] For more information on use, laundry or maintenance of this sling go to [www.ABCCompany.com](http://www.ABCCompany.com)

Manufacturer: ABC CO. Logo

Manufacturer's Name, Address and Phone Number: ABC CO. Address

Batch & Serial # if any: 12345678

Standardize this format on all labels to help in identification (ISO 15724)

Model of First Use: MM/YY

For use with: ABC CO. Hanger Bar

Sample sling label

### V. Laundry

- A. Reusable fabric slings**
  - Specific laundering instructions provided
  - 5% or less fabric shrinkage
  - Meet CDC guidelines
- B. Wipeable**
- C. Single 'healthcare recipient' (patient) use or one-time use slings**
  - Should never be laundered and reused



### VI. Sling and Hanger Bar - Inspection Process

- A. Slings & Hanger bars should be visually inspected**
  - a) frequency of inspection & by whom
- B. Guidelines healthcare workers should follow each time they use a sling.**
- C. The organization or facility should have specific criteria and a process for removing a defective or damaged sling and/or hanger bar from service that is clearly communicated to healthcare workers.**



### VII. Hanger Bar – Design

- Related only to the design of a hanger bar's attachment point to a sling.
- Deals with information related to
  - maximum load
  - compatibility with sling type
  - accidental unhooking or release due to various issues
  - safe and comfortable positioning of the healthcare recipient
  - slings with key/clip attachment points should only be used with hanger bars designed for this type of sling.
- A facility purchasing equipment/slings/other SPHM devices, need to meet the specialized healthcare needs of specific populations.



### VIII. Maintenance – Slings & Hanger Bar only

- System for regular cleaning, disinfection, maintenance, & upgrade of SPHM technology including hanger bars & slings.
- Regular inspection: a) frequency of use b) sling & lift manufacturer's recommendations, if any
  - by a 'competent' person.
- Removal of defective, damaged, and/or malfunctioning hanger bars and/or slings from service
  - includes notification of healthcare workers.



### VIII. Maintenance – Slings & Hanger Bar only

- Inventory that tracks the purchase of SPHM technology including slings.
  - sling inventory -- a) date of purchase b) date of first use c) date of periodic sling inspection by "competent person" assigned by the facility or organization.
- Monitoring and acting on upgrade or recall notices for equipment or software
  - responsibility assigned to a specific position within the facility or healthcare organization.



### IX. Education & Training


- An effective system of educating and training on the safe use of slings and hanger bars, including reviews to maintain competence.
- The system should include:
  - frequency of training
  - methodology - the needs of the adult learner/interactive
  - address the differing cultural, linguistic, clinical & non-clinical practice needs of healthcare workers



The Healthcare Recipient Sling and Lift Hanger Bar Compatibility Guidelines <sup>31</sup>

## IX. Education and Training

- content
  - various topics that should be included
  - specific to the role & setting of the healthcare or ancillary/support worker
- demonstration of competency with slings & hanger bars prior to providing actual hands-on care.
- ongoing monitoring effectiveness of the education & training.



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## X. Healthcare Recipient Assessment for SPHM

- The healthcare recipient will be evaluated for physical, cognitive, clinical, and rehabilitative needs that impact mobility needs, both initially and on an ongoing basis. The outcome of the SPHM assessment, evaluation, or scoring system will be incorporated into the individual plan of care.
- The individual plan of care will specify required SPHM technology, methods and expected outcomes.



Healthcare Recipient  
Sling and Lift Hanger Bar  
Compatibility  
Guidelines

## Questions?

**Lynda Enos**  
[HumanFit@aol.com](mailto:HumanFit@aol.com)

**Lena Deter**  
[Lenadeter@gmail.com](mailto:Lenadeter@gmail.com)

Thank You

Association for Safe Patient Handling & Movement

