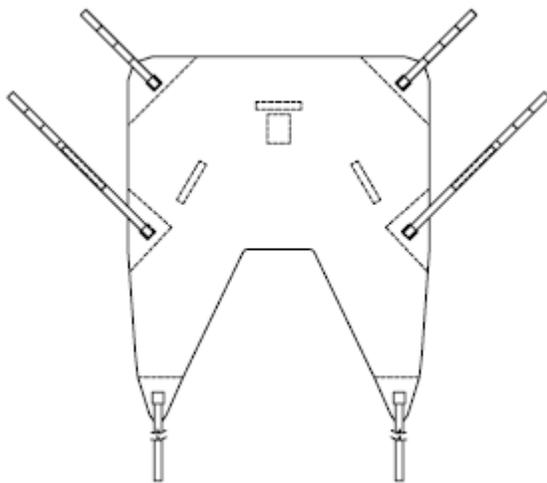


Universal Slings



Description

The **Universal Sling** design is also known as the “Quick Fit Sling” due to the ease of application or the “Horseshoe Style Sling” due to the large horseshoe shaped opening created by the leg straps. It is a multipurpose sling that provides toileting access (when clothing is removed prior to sling application) as well as good trunk and thigh support. The Universal Sling is available in a variety of fabrics. Please see [Sling Fabrics](#) and [Ordering Guidelines](#) for a complete list.

The Universal Sling is designed to be used in conjunction with a floor lift or ceiling lift. The sling is used to lift clients from bed, wheelchair, geriatric chair, shower chair or on/off the floor.

This sling can be used for clients with limited upper body function and tone. This sling serves clients with varying degrees of head and neck control as it is available with or without head support.

The Universal Slings’ versatility and function are due to the sling design:

- With long leg straps and a large opening, the Universal Sling is **easy to apply**, even in tight fitting wheelchairs
- The sling comes with leg, hip and shoulder straps and features loops to accommodate **various seated positions**

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- When short shoulder straps and long leg straps are selected the Universal Sling enables the client to be positioned in an **upright seated position** (close to 90 degrees with a well fitted/sized sling)
- The Universal Sling is designed with **lateral straps** in the hip area. These straps differentiate the Waverley Glen Universal Sling from other “Horseshoe style” slings. The lateral straps serve two purposes:
 - The lateral straps help redistribute load from the inside of the thigh (typical of most Universal designs) , to the outside of the thigh thus **increasing comfort**
 - The client’s hips can be pulled into external rotation by leg straps, leading to discomfort and a risk of injury. The addition of lateral straps helps return the hips to a **neutral position** increasing comfort and decreasing the risk of injury.
- **Lateral support** is afforded by the wide sling body
- If head support is required it is sewn on as an additional piece, allowing **independent head control and support**.

Weight Capacity

The Universal Sling is rated to 1000lbs Safe Working Load in mesh, quilted and polyester fabrics and 440lbs in Slipfit and Spacer fabrics.

Available Options

Fabrics: Universal Slings are available in a variety of sling fabrics. Sling fabric is chosen based on comfort and skin integrity.

- Nylon Mesh
- Quilted: The leg bands are quilted. The sling body is mesh.
- Padded
- Polyester
- Slip Fit: nylon rip-stop (parachute style)
- Poly/slip: a combination of Polyester and Slip Fit
- Spacer Fabric: a three dimensional fabric with an internal air gap
- Client Specific (disposable)

Head Support: Universal Slings are available with or without head support.

Clinical Applications

Appropriate for a client who:

- Requires head support (optional head support is available)
- Requires lateral support
- Needs or wants to sit at 90° hip flexion (Chair Position)
- Has intact lower limbs or who has unilateral below the knee amputation

A different sling design will better meet the needs of a client who:

- Has unilateral above-knee amputation



- Has bilateral lower limb amputation
- Has extreme fixed kyphosis
- Has “hip precautions” (especially hip Internal or external rotation)

Sling Sizing Guidelines

Sizes: Universal Slings are available in the following sizes:

- Junior
- Small
- Medium
- Large
- X-Large
- XX-Large
- Custom

Please refer to the [Sling Sizing Chart](#) for the appropriate sling size for your client. Sizing is based on weight and height, however other factors should also be considered to ensure the best size is chosen for clients fit.

Determining Universal Sling Fit:

Two points on the sling serve as landmarks in determining proper fit: (1) the center of the opening arch, and (2) the top border for slings without head support (or shoulder strap when using with head support). To find the center of the opening arch, locate the ‘center tab’ on the bottom border of the sling body. To find the top border of the sling without head support draw an imaginary line from the shoulder strap to the midpoint of the top border of the sling.

Determining appropriate sling length:

The center of the opening arch should be in line with the client’s tailbone (coccyx). The top border of the sling should fall between the client’s shoulder, and the bottom of the ear.

Determining appropriate sling width:

When the center of the sling body is in line with the client’s spine, the sling should extend to the anterior crease of the shoulder (where the deltoid muscle and chest meet). When the client is in the sling, you should not be able to have both sides of the sling meet to fully encircle the client. This would signal that the sling is too big. However you should be able to come across the front of the client slightly, otherwise the sling will be too small.

Determining appropriate leg band length:

The leg bands should be assessed to determine if there is an appropriate amount of material available to ensure client comfort. There should be 3-4” of band exposed from under the leg when the leg bands are applied. If it is noted that the straps or webbing of the sling contacts the skin, the sling is considered too small and should be exchanged for a larger sized sling.

A sling that is too small will be uncomfortable for the client and may increase the chance of skin irritation. A sling that is too large will prevent the client from being positioned into an upright/chair-type position may increase the difficulty of positioning a client into a chair, and may increase the risk of injury to the client (i.e., fall out of sling).



Universal Sling Application

When the client is lying down:

1. Assist the client to roll onto his or her side – have him or her help as much as possible.
2. Position the sling underneath the client:
 - a. Lay the sling on the bed
 - b. Fold the sling in half lengthwise with the tag on the outside
 - c. Place the folded edge 2 inches away from the client and tuck the top layer under the client's back
 - d. Bottom edge should be at the tailbone and top edge at the shoulders
 - e. Ask the client to roll onto his or her back
 - f. Walk around to the other side of the bed
 - g. Ask the client to roll away from you just enough that you can pull the tucked flap flat onto the bed
 - h. Ask the client to roll onto his or her back
3. Tuck the leg bands under and between the upper thighs and cross the straps. This is the most common leg band configuration. Please see [Leg Band Application](#) for alternate configurations.
4. Attach the loops on the straps to the carry bar on the lift
 - a. Make sure you use the same colour loops on both sides of the sling (i.e., if you use blue on the left leg strap, use blue on the right leg strap)
 - b. Remember: Short loops for Shoulders, and Long loops for Legs if you want the client to be lifted in an upright seated position

When the client is sitting in a chair/wheelchair:

1. Ask the client to lean forward. If the client cannot do this by him/herself, gently bring him/her forward using the sling behind the shoulders to assist you. Place yourself in front of the client, or slightly to the side.
2. Apply the sling:
 - a. Tuck the sling down behind the client's back with the tag on the outside
 - b. The bottom edge should fall just below the tailbone
 - c. Let the rest of the sling slide down between the client's back and the chair back
3. Tuck the leg bands under the client's legs in one of the configurations outlined above
4. Bring the top of the sling in line with the client's shoulders
5. Attach the loops on the straps to the carry bar on the lift
 - a. Make sure you use the same colour loops on both sides of the sling
 - b. Remember: Short loops for Shoulders, and Long loops for Legs if you want the client to be lifted in an upright seated position

Important note: Once you have reached the point at which there is tension on the straps but the client has not yet been lifted off of the surface, STOP THE LIFT. Make sure all straps are securely fastened to the carry bar and that the sling has not shifted position on the client's body (i.e., it is not slipping up the client's back and there are no folds or wrinkles in the sling fabric). If you notice anything of concern, stop the lift, and reassess the situation.



Leg Band Application

There are three typical leg band configurations;

Divided Leg "Closed/Crossover" - Provides optimum comfort and security. The most commonly used (default) attachment option and is recommended. The "crossover" configuration can be achieved in two ways:

- (a) One leg *strap* is threaded through the small opening in the opposite leg strap. This will decrease the size of the opening minimally and will ensure the legs do not splay.
- (b) One leg *band* is crossed over the opposite leg band. This will provide more support than option (a) by decreasing the size of the opening even more. This will also bring the legs closer together than option (a).

Divided Leg "Open" - Provides increased access for personal hygiene. Use extreme caution with this leg band configuration as external hip rotation may be increased and the opening is larger, increasing the risk to the client.

Closed Leg – The client's legs are held together tightly before passing leg straps under them for maximum dignity. The leg bands and straps are crossed under individual's thighs. This leg band configuration provides the smallest opening under the client. This leg band configuration may be suitable for clients with limited ability to externally rotate hips (i.e., those with lower extremity contractures, increased tone).

Sling removal

Best practice is to remove the sling after the transfer has occurred and to re-insert the sling prior to the client being transferred again. Encouraging client participation, where possible, can increase the time efficiency of the task.

Efforts should be made to reduce the potential of friction occurring between the sling and skin.

The following steps are used for removal of the universal, hammock and deluxe support slings.

When the client is lying down:

1. Remove the leg bands from the client's legs
 - a. Assist the client to bend his or her knee to facilitate leg band removal
2. Assist the client to roll onto his or her side – have him or her help as much as possible.
3. Tuck the sling under the client's back, *pushing down into mattress* to reduce friction between the sling and the client's skin
4. Ask the client to roll onto his or her back
5. Walk around to the other side of the bed
6. Ask the client to roll away from you just enough that you can pull the tucked sling out from under the client
7. Ask the client to roll onto his or her back

When the client is sitting in a chair/wheelchair:

1. Remove the leg bands from the client's legs
 - a. Ask the client to lift his or her leg to facilitate leg band removal.



- b. If the client is unable to do this independent, assist the client to lift his or her leg, using good body mechanics.
 - c. If only partial leg elevation can be achieved, friction can be reduced by folding the leg strap under the leg band and peeling the leg band back on itself. Removing the leg band in this manner causes the friction to occur between the two pieces of material rather than between the material and the client's leg.
2. Remove the sling body from behind the client
- a. Ask the client to lean forward and remove the sling from behind the client
 - b. If the client is unable to do this independently, assist the client to lean forward, using good body mechanics. Remove the sling from behind the client

Ordering Guidelines

Part Number	Description
517205	Universal Mesh – Junior
517210	Universal Mesh – Small
517220	Universal Mesh – Medium
517230	Universal Mesh – Large
517240	Universal Mesh – X Large
517250	Universal Mesh – XX Large
517305	Universal Quilted – Junior
517310	Universal Quilted – Small
517320	Universal Quilted – Medium
517330	Universal Quilted – Large
517340	Universal Quilted – X Large
517350	Universal Quilted – XX Large
527305	Universal Padded – Junior
527310	Universal Padded – Small
527320	Universal Padded – Medium
527330	Universal Padded – Large
527340	Universal Padded – X Large
527350	Universal Padded – XX Large
517405	Universal Mesh with Head Support – Junior
517410	Universal Mesh with Head Support – Small
517420	Universal Mesh with Head Support – Medium
517430	Universal Mesh with Head Support – Large
517440	Universal Mesh with Head Support – X-Large
517450	Universal Mesh with Head Support – XXLarge
517505	Universal Quilted with Head Support – Junior
517510	Universal Quilted with Head Support - Small
517520	Universal Quilted with Head Support – Medium
517530	Universal Quilted with Head Support – Large
517540	Universal Quilted with Head Support – X Large
517550	Universal Quilted with Head Support – XX Large
527505	Universal Padded with Head Support – Junior
527510	Universal Padded with Head Support – Small
527520	Universal Padded with Head Support – Medium



527530	Universal Padded with Head Support – Large
527540	Universal Padded with Head Support – X Large
527550	Universal Padded with Head Support – XX Large
547010	Universal – Patient Specific Sling – Small (10/Pkg.)
547020	Universal – Patient Specific Sling – Medium (10/Pkg.)
547030	Universal Patient Specific Sling – Large (10/Pkg.)
547040	Universal – Patient Specific Sling – X Large (10/Pkg.)
8A2700	Universal Mesh/Poly - Child
8A2600	Universal Mesh/Poly - Jr.
8A2500	Universal Mesh/Poly - Small
8A2400	Universal Mesh/Poly - Medium
8A2300	Universal Mesh/Poly - Large
8A2200	Universal Mesh/Poly - XL
8A2100	Universal Mesh/Poly - XXL
8A2730	Universal Mesh/Poly with Taped H/S - Child
8A2630	Universal Mesh/Poly with Taped H/S - Jr.
8A2530	Universal Mesh/Poly with Taped H/S - Small
8A2430	Universal Mesh/Poly with Taped H/S - Medium
8A2330	Universal Mesh/Poly with Taped H/S - Large
8A2230	Universal Mesh/Poly with Taped H/S - XL
8A1700	Universal PolySlip - Child
8A1600	Universal PolySlip - Jr
8A1500	Universal PolySlip - Small
8A1400	Universal PolySlip - Medium
8A1300	Universal PolySlip - Large
8A1200	Universal PolySlip - XL
8A1100	Universal PolySlip - XXL
8A1720	Universal PolySlip with H/S - Child
8A1620	Universal PolySlip with H/S - Jr
8A1520	Universal PolySlip with H/S - Small
8A1420	Universal PolySlip with H/S - Medium
8A1320	Universal PolySlip with H/S - Large
8A1220	Universal PolySlip with H/S - XL
8A3700	Universal SlipFit - Child
8A3600	Universal SlipFit - JR
8A3500	Universal SlipFit - Small
8A3400	Universal SlipFit - Medium
8A3300	Universal SlipFit - Large
8A3200	Universal SlipFit - XL
8A3720	Universal SlipFit H/S - Child
8A3620	Universal SlipFit H/S - JR
8A3520	Universal SlipFit H/S - Small
8A3420	Universal SlipFit H/S - Medium

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8A3320	Universal SlipFit H/S - Large
8A3220	Universal SlipFit H/S - XL
8A4700	Universal Spacer - Child
8A4600	Universal Spacer - JR
8A4500	Universal Spacer - Small
8A4400	Universal Spacer - Medium
8A4300	Universal Spacer - Large
8A4200	Universal Spacer - XL
8A4730	Universal Spacer with Taped H/S - Child
8A4630	Universal Spacer with Taped H/S - JR
8A4530	Universal Spacer with Taped H/S - Small
8A4430	Universal Spacer with Taped H/S - Medium
8A4330	Universal Spacer with Taped H/S - Large

