



Redefining Patient Handling

Sling Guide



Joerns.co.uk

Contents

Introduction	3
Oxford Sling Models	4
Sling Accessories	9
Oxford Sling Features	10
User Guide	12
Identification Label	12
Weight Capacity	12
Spreader Bar/Cradle Options	13
Sling Selection & Risk Assessment	14
FIM Scoring	15
Sling Sizing	16
Size & Weight Range Guide	17
Matching the Right Sling to the Task	18
Oxford Sling Selector	19
Custom/Special Slings	20
Clinical Support/Advice	21
Moving and Handling Training	21
About Joerns Healthcare	21

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 spreader bar/cradle of a lift to raise, transfer and lower the patient.

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

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 needs.



Oxford 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 15 for classifications details.



Quickfit Sling

This sling is an easy-to-fit, universal sling designed to suit approximately 85% of patients. Side suspenders are recommended when using this sling to maximise patient comfort and positioning.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester and Net

 227 kg / 35 st

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



Quickfit Deluxe Sling **No longer available**

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 also available with integrated head-support.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester and Net

 227 kg / 35 st

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



Access Padded Sling

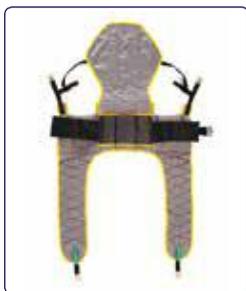
This sling is designed specifically to facilitate the toileting procedure by allowing the removal of clothing. It is NOT a general-purpose sling and will suit only 25% of patients. Patients must be in a sitting position to use this sling. Available with or without head support.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	XS, S, M, L and XL
Material Options:	Polyester

 227 kg / 35 st

FIM Scores: 2 or 3 following careful assessment

NOTE: A thorough risk assessment MUST be carried out when using the Access sling as it can be unsafe when used with the wrong patient.



Comfort Access Padded Sling

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. Fitted with a head support as standard.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Clips / 4-point cradle
Standard Sizes:	S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester

 227 kg / 35 st

FIM Scores: 2 or 3 following careful assessment

NOTE: A thorough risk assessment **MUST** be carried out when using the Access sling as it can be unsafe when used with the wrong patient.



Long Seat Sling

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. Available with commode aperture.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester and Net

 227 kg / 35 st

FIM Scores: 1 or 2 following careful assessment



In-Situ Sling

The In-Situ sling is made from 'Super-soft', breathable polyester for total patient comfort and is designed for patients who have to remain in the sling for an extended period, such as for bed making. The sling is suitable for the lifting of amputees, but patients must be individually assessed for suitability by a qualified person. It is padded as standard and has an integratedommel for added patient security.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	S, M, and L
Material Options:	Super-soft Polyester

 200 kg / 31 st

FIM Scores: 1 or 2 following careful assessment



Oxford slings can be customised from their standard specification where patient specific requirements need to be met. Bespoke sizing, padding, fleece lining and body belts are just some of the options available. Please contact Joerns Healthcare for further information.



Full Back Sling

This is a more specialised sling. The correct size will fit snugly and give full protection for patients who go into extension or have involuntary movements or behavioural problems. It incorporates a boned head support and padded leg pieces as standard.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	XS, S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester, Net and Disposable

 227 kg / 35 st

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



Silkfit Sling

This 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 incorporates a boned head support and padded leg pieces as standard.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	XS, S, M, and L
Material Options:	Nylon

 227 kg / 35 st

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



Comfort Sling

This is a more specialised sling. The Securi3 clips ensures 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.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Clips / 4-point cradle
Standard Sizes:	XS, S, M, L and XL
Material Options:	Polyester

 227 kg / 35 st

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



For the safety of both patient and carer, Joerns Healthcare strongly recommend that a full risk assessment is conducted prior to using any sling. This will help to ensure that the choice of sling, and procedure for transfer has been correctly determined for the patient.



Standing Harness

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.

Lift Type:	Passive
Attachment:	Loops / 6-point spreader bar
Standard Sizes:	XS, S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester



227 kg / 35 st

FIM Scores: 2 or 3 following careful assessment



Standing Sling

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.

Lift Type:	Active
Attachment:	Loops / stand-aid
Standard Sizes:	S, M, and L
Material Options:	Polyester and Disposable



200 kg / 31 st

FIM Scores: 3 and 4 following careful assessment

NOTE: A thorough risk assessment **MUST** be carried out when using the Standing sling as it can be unsafe when used with the wrong patient.



Transport Sling

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. The adjustable waist strap and the non-slip back pad ensures the sling does not ride up during the transfer.

Lift Type:	Active
Attachment:	Loops / stand-aid
Standard Sizes:	S, M and L
Material Options:	Polyester



200 kg / 31 st

FIM Scores: 2, 3 and 4 following careful assessment

NOTE: A thorough risk assessment **MUST** be carried out when using the Transport sling as it can be unsafe when used with the wrong patient.



Bariatric Hammock Sling (Calibre only)

The Bariatric Hammock Sling is suitable for the safe transfer of bariatric patients. Made from a triple skinned, breathable material, it is particularly suited to patients who may have to remain in the sling for extended periods. Patients must be carefully assessed for suitability by a qualified person prior to a transfer taking place.

- Lift Type:** Passive (Calibre only)
Attachment: Clips / 6-point cradle
Standard Sizes: XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL and 5XL
Material Options: Super-soft Polyester



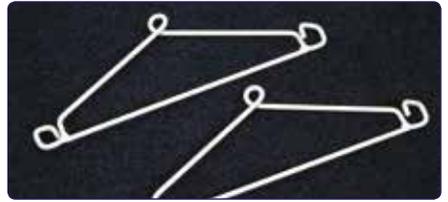
385 kg / 60 st

Careful and thorough risk assessment required prior to use

Sling Accessories



Head supports and pads help to ensure correct positioning and support during a transfer.



Side suspenders.



A head/neck roll provides additional comfort and support for the patient.



Extension straps allow an increase in length of the existing sling straps that connect to the lift.



Oxford's ultra-low friction slide sheets allow basic patient handling tasks to be completed without the need to lift the patient.

Oxford Sling Features

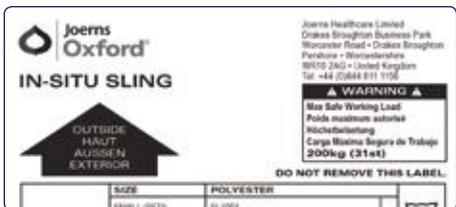
Oxford slings have many common attributes that make them easier to use, and easier to train with.



Coloured binding provides clear recognised size information.



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



Clear sling labels provide product information and on-going care instructions.



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.





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



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



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



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



Oxford's Silkfit sling is made from 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 for use in wet environments, providing rapid drainage and drying.

Spreader Bar/Cradle Options

The Oxford Professional lift range has the option of two sling attachment systems that provide the carer greater choice in selecting the most appropriate sling and cradle for a task. The Advance, Presence and Stature can be used with either the 6-point spreader bar or a 4-point positioning cradle. Both systems have their place, but more importantly, it allows the carer to choose exactly the right 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 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
(powered version shown)

4-point Positioning Cradle

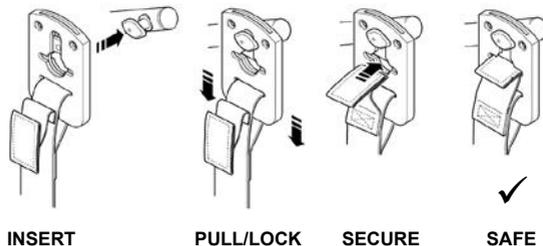
The 4-point positioning cradle uses the Securi3 safety clip system and adjustment is made by rotating the cradle handle either down or up to obtain an upright or reclined position for the patient. Both manual and powered cradles are available.



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

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

The Oxford Securi3 clip system is designed to ensure NO inadvertent detachment occurs during a transfer. The following key stages assures the patient and carer of complete safety.



Sling Selection & Risk Assessment

Selecting a sling for an individual patient involves more than simply measuring their size and deciding what the sling will be used for. Other factors to take into consideration for example 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 example: a sling that is to be used for toileting may require a commode aperture).

Sling Support Levels

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 (1) and the leg straps providing support to the thighs, hips and buttocks (2/3).



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

FIM Scoring

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

What are the 7 levels?

Independent

7. Complete Independence

Another person is not required for the activity which is performed safely without modification or outside assistance within a reasonable time.

6. Modified Independence

Activity requires one or more of the following: an assistive device, more than reasonable time or safety (risk) considerations.

Dependent

5. Supervision or set up

Someone required to help by observation or encouragement without contact.

4. Minimal Assistance

Someone required to help - by touching - subject makes 75% or more of the effort.

3. Moderate Assistance

Someone required to help by more than touching - subject makes 50% - 75% of the effort.

Complete Dependence

2. Maximal Assistance

Complete dependence. Subject makes less than 50% but at least 25% of effort.

1. Total Assistance

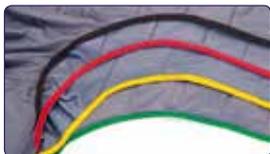
Complete dependence. Subject makes less than 25% of effort.



Please note: 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).

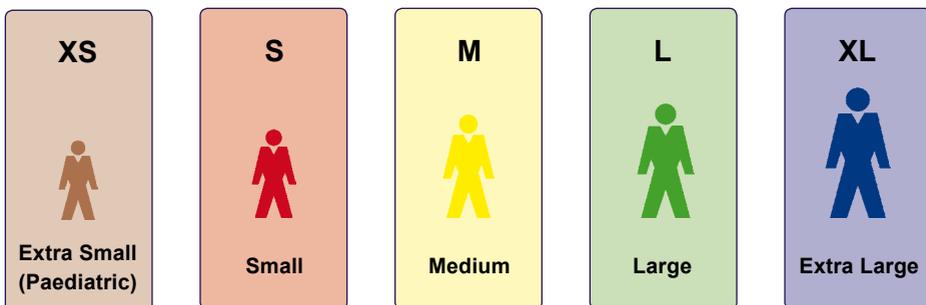
Sling Sizing

Oxford 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. Standard slings are available in sizes XS to XL and bariatric slings in sizes XL to 5XL.

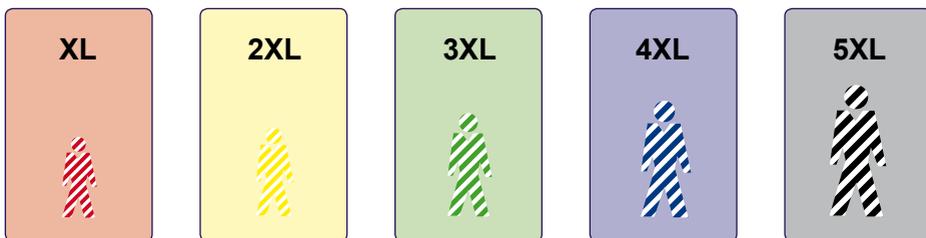


Oxford use a simple colour-coding system that ensures the size of your sling is instantly recognisable. The outer-edge binding of the sling is colour-coded as shown. Oxford's bariatric slings use a striped system to help differentiate from the standard range.

Colour Coding - Standard Sling Range:



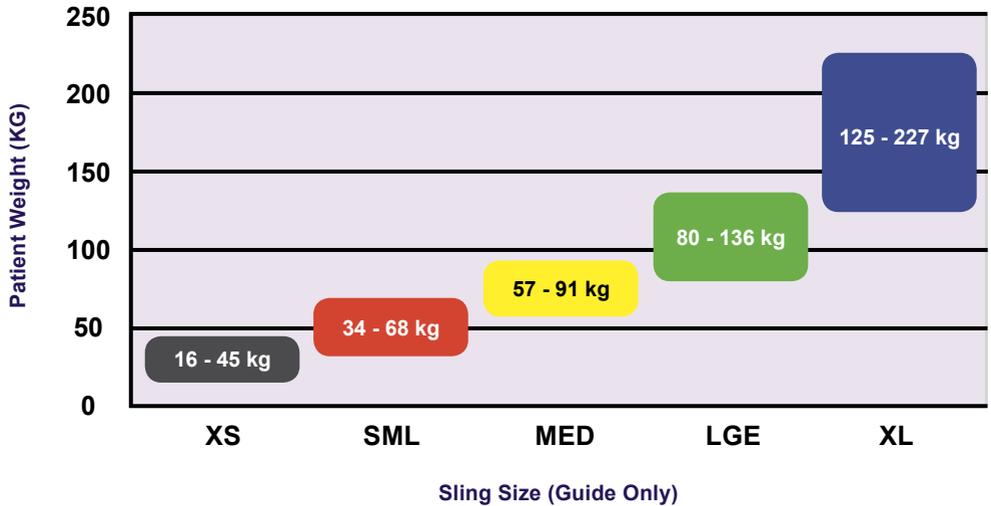
Colour Coding - Bariatric Sling Range:



Oxford slings can be customised outside of their standard specification to include adjustments to sizing. Should a standard sling size be deemed unsuitable, we can create a tailored sling to meet patient specific requirements. Contact Joerns Healthcare for more information.

Size & Weight Range Guide (approx.)

This weight recommendation chart provides only 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 alone.



Oxford Bariatric Slings:

All Oxford bariatric slings are rated to a safe working load of 365kg / 850lbs. Due to the varying nature of bariatric patient shapes and sizes, it becomes increasingly difficult to provide a guide on sling size based purely on weight alone. Patients should be individually assessed to ascertain the correct size sling.



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

Matching the Right Sling to the Task

(Good Practice Guide)

To simplify the process of sling selection, OXFORD has developed a chart to help guide you in the appropriate use of each sling for a given task. There will, of course be exceptions to this guide and Joerns Healthcare recommend that a full patient risk assessment is carried out prior to any transfer to determine individual requirements.

Sling Model	Example Patient Lift	Chair to Chair	Bed to Chair	Chair to Commode/ Toilet	Commode to Bath ⁽¹⁾	Floor to Bed/ Chair	Rehab/ Assisted Standing
Access Padded	Advance / Midi 180			■			
Comfort Access ⁽²⁾	Stature / Presence			■			
Comfort ⁽²⁾	Stature / Presence	■	■	■	■	■	
Full Back	Advance / Midi 180	■	■	■	■	■	
In-Situ	Advance / Midi 180	■ ⁽³⁾	■				
Long Seat	Advance / Midi 180	■ ⁽³⁾	■	■ ⁽⁴⁾	■ ⁽⁴⁾		
Quickfit	Advance / Midi 180	■	■	■	■		
Quickfit Deluxe	Advance / Midi 180	■	■	■	■	■ ⁽⁵⁾	
Silkfit	Advance / Midi 180	■	■	■		■	
Standing	Journey / Standaid 140	■	■ ⁽⁶⁾	■			■
Transport	Journey / Standaid 140	■	■ ⁽⁶⁾	■			■
Standing Harness	Stature / Presence						■
Bariatric Hammock	Calibre	■ ⁽³⁾	■			■	

(1) Net version recommended.

(2) When used with a 4-point positioning cradle.

(3) Assuming patient is sat in sling following transfer from a bed.

(4) Commode aperture required.

(5) With head support version only.

(6) Assuming patient is sat on edge of bed with both feet on the footplate.

Oxford Sling Selector Tool

Selecting the most appropriate sling is crucial since it ensures a safe, dignified and comfortable patient transfer whilst reducing the risks associated with manual handling.

Oxford's Sling Selector is a useful on-line tool, carefully designed and developed to assist therapists and end-users select the most appropriate sling based on patient, task and equipment variables.

- Simple, intuitive and FREE to use with step by step help
- Detailed sling information including product videos
- Account history feature enables users to track patient sling use
- Avoids ordering errors and reduces injuries

Register today at www.oxfordslingsselector.co.uk

Custom/Special Slings

Custom or special slings are 'one-off' designs to meet patient specific requirements. These slings are made to order by Joerns Healthcare. Please contact Joerns Healthcare for full details.

Options for customisation include, but are not limited to:

- Extend sling strap length to suit (leg or shoulders)
- Add body belt
- Add or remove positioning straps
- Add or remove head support
- Taper leg sections
- Add fleece lining or padding to specific areas of the sling
- Adjust sizing outside of standard

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 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.

Joerns Healthcare training programmes are CPD certified.

For more information, please contact Joerns Healthcare.



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. Aside from slings, the Oxford patient handling range includes:

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



To find out how Joerns Healthcare can assist you with your patient handling needs, please contact us:

(T) +44 (0)844 811 1156

(E) info@joerns.co.uk

(W) www.joerns.co.uk



EVOCARE AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED

A.B.N. 98 078 566 604

Trading as **EVOCARE** and **L&M EQUIPMENT**

P.O. Box 1144, Stafford Qld. 4053

Ph: 07 3355 8000 Fax: 07 3355 5043

Website: <http://www.evocare.com.au>

Email: sales@evocare.com.au

workshop@evocare.com.au

warehouse@evocare.com.au

accounts@evocare.com.au

