

Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

**QUALITY & RISK MANAGEMENT
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

CATEGORY: Quality & Risk Management - Nursing	SUBJECT: Sling Integrity	SECTION: G POLICY: 4
DATE: July 12, 2022	Administrator's Signature: _____	

SLING INTEGRITY

POLICY:

The sling integrity audit will be completed in conjunction with the linen inventory (every 6 months) to ensure slings are safe for use when transferring residents.

PROCEDURE:

The Director of Care will:

- 1) Assign a manager to each Resident Home Area/Neighbourhood to complete the sling integrity audit. This process should be a joint interprofessional process.

The Manager will:

- 1) Check each sling following the instructions listed below:
 - Lay sling out on a flat surface so that all areas of the sling are visible.
 - Check whether or not the sling model requires plastic "stays/stiffeners" and if so are they present (if the stays are missing they can be replaced but the sling should not be used until the stays are available).
 - Check all loops / clips at their connection / stress points. Twist and pull with your fingers and look for any signs of weakness i.e. fraying, loose stitching, clip cracking, or missing pieces. Depending on the sling model there may be up to 12 loop / clip points in total. If any of the attachment points are questionable, remove the sling from service.
 - Check body of sling for any rips or holes. If there are any rips or holes present, remove sling from service.
 - Check sling for worn or missing labels. Blank or missing labels indicate frequent use and laundering and may also indicate exposure to bleach. Without a legible label the Safe Working Load (SWL) for the sling cannot be identified. If label is illegible or missing, remove sling from service.
 - Check stitching of entire sling; look for any fraying or loose stitching. If there is any question concerning the safe condition of the sling, remove from service.
 - Check sling for heat damage. This may be detected as an overall shrinking of sling or may be noticed on the padded leg section and can be identified by a shrinking or scrunching of the leg portion. Heat damage may also be found on

other areas by noticing a brittle or rigid/stiff feel to the fabric. If there is any question concerning the safety of the sling, remove from service.

- Check sling for excessive staining. While some staining may occur through use by an incontinent resident, other staining may indicate exposure to chemicals. If there is any suspicion that staining is not a result of use with an incontinent resident, remove sling from service.
- 2) Document the findings on the Sling Integrity Audit Form once each sling has been thoroughly checked.
 - 3) Return completed inventory sheet to the Director of Care along with any slings removed from service.

The Director of Care will:

- 1) Ensure that all findings are summarized on the inventory sheet and review the slings set aside to be removed from circulation.
- 2) Count any slings that are not in use (in storage) and add to the inventory sheet (these do not need to be inspected).
- 3) If adding new slings to inventory to replace discarded slings, remove from storage and number new slings.
- 4) When a sling is removed from service, collect laundering tracking sheet from laundry and initiate a new form to track the laundering process.
- 5) Order slings that are required to meet the needs of the residents and as budget allows.
- 6) Send Sling Inventory to the Clinical Partner.