

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	1.22 – Policy
Subject: Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	11.19.10 - Revised
Topic: Patient Lift Equipment Slings and Anti-friction Slide Sheets	2000 - Author

01.22 Patient Lift Equipment Slings and Anti-friction Slide Sheets

Purpose	To outline cleaning and disinfection procedures for patient lift equipment slings or the anti-friction slide sheets
Audience	All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, outpatient surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students who are involved in the use and cleaning of patient lift equipment slings and the anti-friction slide sheets
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient lift equipment slings and anti-friction slide sheets may be used for any patient provided there is a barrier between the skin and the device. • Patients with open wounds and incontinence of urine or stool should have a sling dedicated to their use.
Bathing	A mesh sling should be used for transferring patients into a bathtub or shower. Slings used to assist in the bathing process should be laundered between patient uses.
Isolation	Patients who are in Contact or Modified Contact Precautions should have a sling dedicated to their use. The sling may be laundered upon discontinuation of this therapy.
Laundry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slings that are used on patients who are continent, and that do not come into contact with bare skin (i.e., covered by a sheet or bedclothes) may be laundered once a week. • Slings contaminated by blood or body fluids or that come into contact with bare skin must be laundered between patient uses. • Used slings may be placed into a designated laundry bag and stored in the dirty utility room. • Clean slings will be delivered to the floor with the floor linen. • Clean slings must be stored with the clean linens or in a clean utility room.
Anti-friction Slide Sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-friction slide sheets may be issued to individual patients and laundered when soiled or after patient use. • Anti-friction sheets may be placed in the laundry bag with the patient lift equipment slings and delivered to the laundry. They will be returned with the clean linen.