



## SPINAL INJURIES UNIT

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## OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT

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## Postal and Location

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## TRANSITIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

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## SPINAL OUTREACH TEAM

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## Looking after your hoist and slings

After you have received your hoist and sling, it is important to monitor the care and maintenance requirements of the items.

### Regular care and maintenance: SLINGS

It is best to have a backup sling if possible. This allows you to still use your hoist when one of your slings is being laundered or requires replacement. If you do not have a backup sling, contact your local supplier or occupational therapist to discuss.



It is important to make sure your slings are in good condition.

### What do I need to look for?

- **Label:** Is the label still intact and readable (indicates the size, type and safe working load of the sling)?
- **Fabric:** Are there any signs of the fabric deteriorating, thinning or wearing out? Check that there are no holes or tears in the fabric.
- **Stitching:** Is there any evidence of the stitching becoming unravelled, broken, worn or pulled? Much of the strength and integrity of the sling is in the seams of the binding at the edge and the attachment loops. It is important to check the stitching in these locations because if this comes undone during a lift the sling could fail.
- **Loop attachments:** Are there any signs of the fabric on the attachments tearing or fraying?



Frayed loop attachment: Unsafe to use



Intact loop attachments: safe to use

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- **Plastic Clip Attachments:** Are there any chips or cracks in the plastic (you can check this by looking at the plastic clip with light behind it) or any sharp edges that could wear through the fabric? Is there any wearing down of the keyhole attachment (it should make an audible click when attached)?



Plastic Clip attachment

- **Padding (if present):** Is there any evidence of deterioration in the padding of the leg straps?
- **Laundering:** Do you know the sling's washing instructions?
- **Hoist/sling compatibility:** Is the sling compatible with the hoist (same brand, same attachment style)? It is recommended to use a hoist and sling of the same brand to prevent accidental disconnection of the sling, leading to injury.
- Never use a sling with clips on a hoist designed for loop attachments or vice versa.

### **How often should I check the sling?**

- It is a good idea to get into the habit of checking the sling before each use and after laundering.

### **What should I do if I think the sling has deteriorated?**

- Do not use a sling that has deteriorated. It may fail during the lift.
- Use your backup sling.
- If the item is from MASS, contact MASS repairs phone: 3136 3524 email: [MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au)
- If privately funded, contact the supplier of the equipment.
- If you are unsure, contact your local occupational therapist (OT) or Spinal Outreach Team (SPOT) OTs with the following information - make/model of your hoist and slings, when it was supplied, who scripted and funded it.
- Depending on the funding scheme, it can take some months to trial and receive a replacement sling, so it is best to contact your local OT as early as possible.
- You may need to organise hire of another sling. Contact your local OT or the SPOT OTs for information on companies that loan hoists and slings.

### **Tip: Keep the following:**

- Instruction manuals, warranties, serial numbers and any other information that you receive with your equipment
- Exact make and model of item/s
- Supplier details
- If MASS funded, the plaque number of the item/s
- Name and contact details of the organisation to contact if any problems occur.

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## Regular care and maintenance: HOISTS

### What do I need to look for?

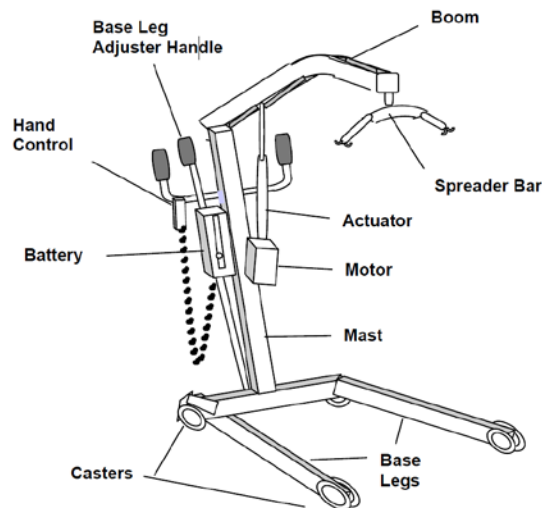
- **Battery:** Is the battery charging correctly?
- **Hand controller:** Do the hand control buttons respond instantly?
- **Cord:** Is there any sign of damage to the cord for the hand control such as over stretching or exposed wiring?
- **Emergency feature:** Do the emergency stop button and emergency lower system work?
- **Pivot frame:** If your hoist has a pivot frame, does it move freely and easily?
- **General:** Are there any signs of corrosion/rusting, cracking, sharp edges or other damage on the frame, boom or yoke or actuator housing of the hoist?

### For mobile floor hoists only:

- **Legs:** Do the legs move smoothly when being spread and closed?
- **Battery:** Does the battery engage easily on the hoist and charger?
- **Casters:** Are the casters securely attached and rolling freely as you move the hoist?
- **Brakes:** Are the brakes easy to engage and braking effectively?

### For ceiling track hoists only:

- **Track:** Are there any obvious signs of damage to the track? Does the hoist move freely along the track?



Mobile floor hoist



Ceiling track hoist

### How often should I check the hoist?

- It is a good idea to get into the habit of doing a simple quick check of the hoist before you use it each time and a more detailed inspection regularly.

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### ***What should I do if I think the hoist is not operating properly?***

This will vary depending upon the funding arrangements for your equipment:

- If the item is from MASS, contact MASS repairs phone: 3136 3524 email: [MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au)
- If privately funded, contact the supplier of the equipment.
- If you are unsure, contact your local occupational therapist (OT) or Spinal Outreach Team (SPOT) OTs with the following information - make/model of your hoist and slings, when it was supplied, who scripted and funded it.
- Depending on the funding scheme, it can take some months to trial and receive a replacement hoist or sling, so it is best to contact your local therapist as early as possible.
- You may need to organise hire of another hoist. Contact your local OT or the SPOT OTs for information on companies that loan hoists and slings.

### ***For more information on this topic:***

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) also has a detailed resource on hoist and sling maintenance: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/documents/maintenance-hoist-sling-checklist.pdf>

Last Reviewed December 2020  
Review Due December 2022