

# Guideline for use and care of disposable slings

## **Background**

Bestcare LLC manufactures a line of slings that are labeled disposable or single patient use. These slings are made with non-woven material and are intended to be used for a single patient. Customers choose this option for convenience, infection control, cost and other reasons that make disposable slings a better choice than washable slings. Non-woven material is subject to deterioration when it gets wet so it must not be laundered like a traditional polyester sling.

## **How is it used?**

Disposable slings are assigned to a specific patient for a period of time until either the patient is no longer in need of the sling or the sling shows signs of damage or wear that will require replacement. Many times the user will write the name of the patient who is using the sling on the sling itself so that it is not accidentally used on the wrong patient.

## **How long can it be used?**

Although the sling is referred to as “disposable”, it can be used more than one time on the specific patient it is assigned to. Since the sling cannot be laundered, spot cleaning is necessary so that the sling is hygienic in its use with the patient. It must be replaced if it is soiled beyond spot cleaning, shows sign of damage or is laundered by accident. The time frame for use should not exceed 6 months.

## **How do you know if it is accidentally laundered?**

All of the disposable slings contain a tag that changes color if the sling is exposed to washing.

## **How do you know if it has already been used?**

All of the disposable slings are vacuum packed so that it is easy to identify if the sling has potentially been opened and used.

## **Are they as safe as washable slings?**

Disposable slings are tested to the same standards as washable slings so they can handle just as much weight without the risk of failure (assuming all of the proper safety and maintenance procedures are followed). Some people would argue that they are safer than washable slings since they are not exposed to the potential hazard of improper laundry procedures.

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