

Hardin County Home, Kenton

Intervention Key Words: Automation, Lifting, Transfer, Electrical Bed, Motorized Beds, Resident Bed

Industry: Health Care

Risk Factor(s): Automation, Lifting, Transfer, Electrical Bed, Motorized Beds, Resident Bed

Situation:

The ability of nursing home employees to provide quality resident care is dependant upon maintaining a safe work environment for both parties involved. One area where that has become a growing concern is during patient transfers. Throughout the course of a day many residents need assistance in basic activities, including but not limited to: getting out of bed, going to the restroom, taking a bath and returning to bed along with a variety of tasks that take place in the bed itself. In many cases, lack of proper, modern equipment heightens the risks of Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) to the employees. At the Hardin County Home, these concerns stem from the fact that beds must be kept in a low position to prevent patient injury in case of a fall. Many of the beds at the home will not rise to assist the care giver in their tasks, or the nurse doesn't take the extra time needed to raise them. This leads to awkward positions, bending and strenuous lifts which result in injuries to the back, shoulders and neck.



Nurses must bend over to raise beds to proper height

Solution:

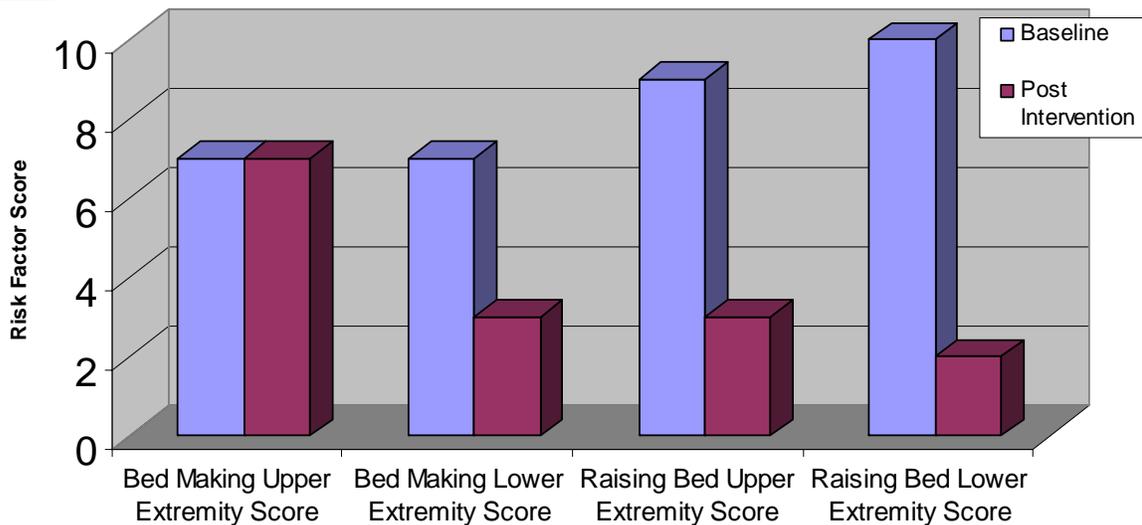
The Hardin County Home approached this problem by purchasing 68 electrically operated beds. With the automated beds nurses can quickly lower or raise the patient

to a height that is suitable for the situation. This allows the nurses to perform their duties without the necessity of bending over. In addition, an anti-slip contour helps reduce sliding and the lifting required of the nurses to reposition the resident. The total cost of purchasing 68 electric beds was \$91,716. The Hardin County Home received \$40,000 in assistance from the Safety Grant\$ program.



New bed in resident room

Results:



- Averaged over 2 tasks, risk factor scores decreased 55%.
- Employee Turnover rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased 10% in the 2 years following the intervention compared to the year prior.
- CTD, Lost Days and Restricted Days rates all increased following the intervention, but may not be directly related to the new beds.