

# Crystalwood Inc., Cincinnati

**Intervention Key Words:** Patient Lifts, Lifting device, Transfer, Lifts, No Lift Policy, Bath System

**Industry:** Health Care

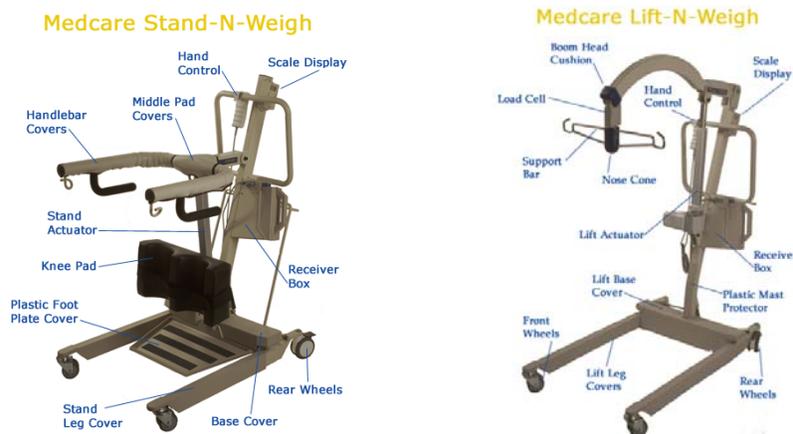
**Risk Factor(s):** Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Neck and Shoulder deviations, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying, Repetitive motion

## Situation:

The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in nursing homes is a growing problem. Constant interaction between patients and employees and the absence of proper equipment result in many preventable sprains and strains. Risk factors for nursing home employees include repetition, awkward posturing and the use of physical force necessary for many tasks. Crystalwood, Inc., like many other elderly care facilities in the state, faced high employee injury and turnover rates due to everyday, work related tasks. These tasks include lifting residents, repositioning them, bathing and assisting with their many other daily activities. This facility would like to educate its staff members of proper lifting techniques, obtain the proper equipment and enforce a mandatory “No-Lift” policy.

## Solution:

To achieve their goal of having a “No-Lift” policy in place, Crystalwood sought the help of Medcare Products and its “Zero Back Injury System” (ZBI). Medcare has designed a program which guarantees a 35% reduction in injuries related to patient lifting. The package includes preliminary site analysis, new lift equipment as deemed necessary by the analysis, extensive training on all new equipment, consistent compliance monitoring and post implementation analysis and training. Medcare offers its customers trade-in and upgrade opportunities as the needs of the care facility change. It was determined that Crystalwood was in need of 3 patient lifts and assorted slings and belts to be used with the lifts. The total cost for the “Zero Back Injury System” to be implemented at the facility was \$23,430. Assistance, in the form of \$18,744, was provided by Safety Grant\$ to offset the costs.

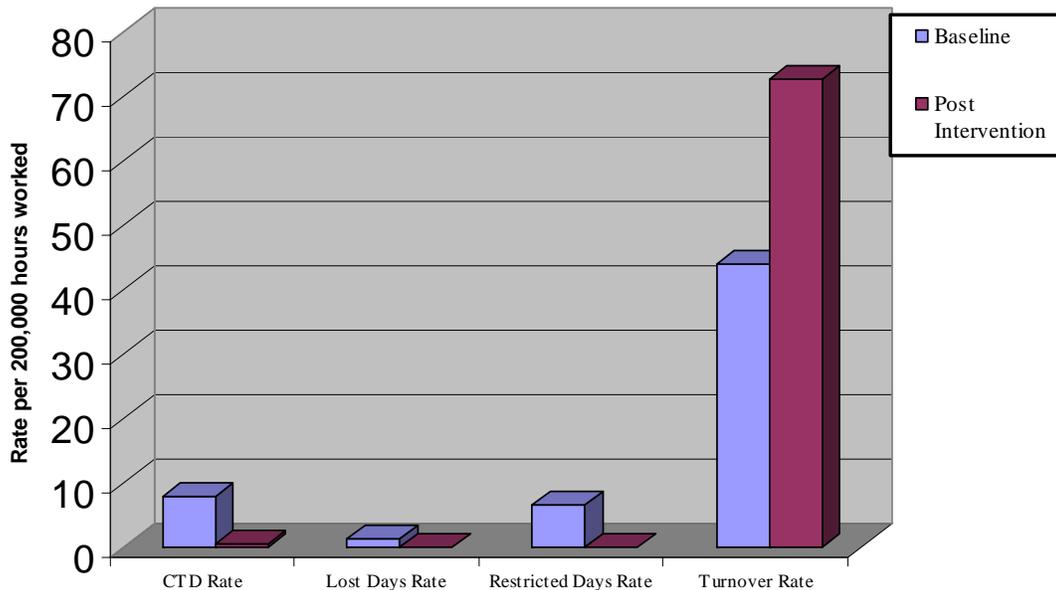


In addition, Crystalwood purchased an automatic resident bather/whirlpool. Bathing, which can become a very strenuous task, can now be completed mechanically. The new bath allows for easy transfer from any sort of chair and requires very little effort on the part of the care giver. The total cost for the bath and beds was \$10,644. Crystalwood received \$8,515 in assistance for this intervention.



**Parker Bath System**

**Results:**



- CTD Rate (per 200,000 hours worked) was at 8 the year prior to the intervention and decreased 91% to 0.7 in 2 years following.
- Lost Days rate and Restricted Days rate were at 1.3 and 6.7 respectively prior to the intervention and decreased 100% following it.
- CTD Risk Factor Scores, averaged over 3 tasks, decreased 45% following the intervention.
- An increase in Employee Turnover rate was observed but may not be directly attributed to the intervention.