

Loveland Investment Group, Loveland

DBA: Loveland Health Care Center

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

Industrial Key Words: Health Care

Risk Factor(s): Awkward postures- Back deviations, Neck and shoulder deviations, Manual handling – Lifting/Carrying

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 Loveland Health Care Center, 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 Loveland Health Care Center approached this problem by purchasing 40 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 40 electric beds was \$43,032. The Loveland Health Care Center received \$30,693 in assistance from the SafetyGrant\$ program to offset the costs.



Results:

- Averaged over 6 tasks, risk factor scores decreased 58%.
- CTD rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) remained at a rate of 1.8 over 24 months following the intervention when compared to the year prior.
- Employee Turnover rate decreased from 97.0 to 58.8 in the 2 years following the intervention, a 39% improvement.
- Small increases in Lost Days and Restricted Days rates were observed.