

Bellevue Care Center, Bellevue

Intervention Key Words: Lifting device, Transfer, Lifts, Patient Lifts, Vanderlift, Sling Electrical Lift

Industrial Key Words: Health Care

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

Situation:

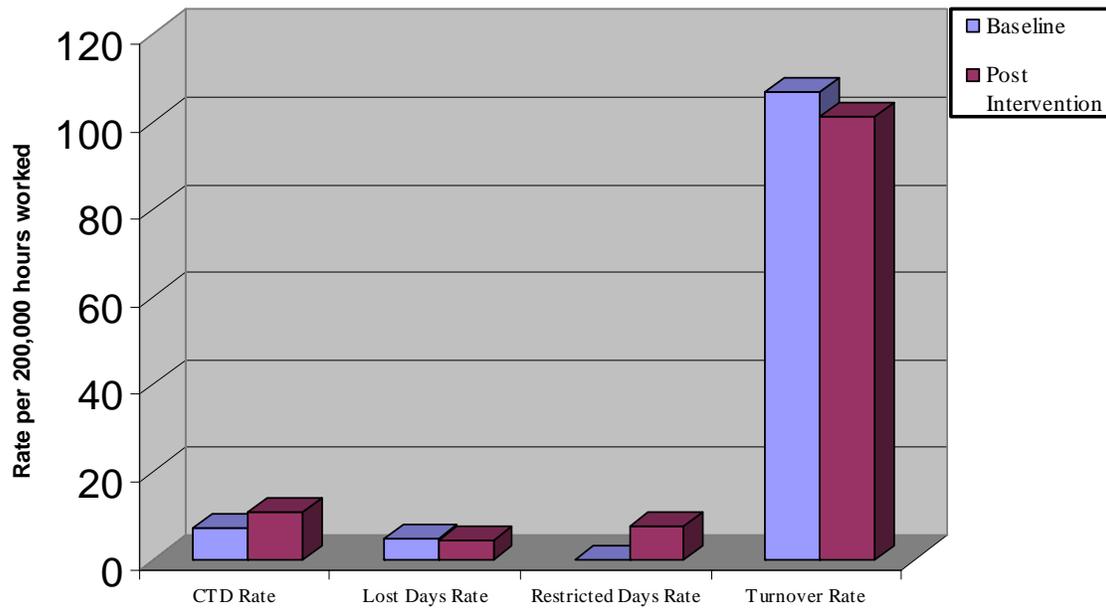
The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in nursing homes is a growing problem. Constant interaction between patients and employees and absence of proper equipment result in many preventable sprains and strains. Risk factors for nursing home employees include repetition, awkward posturing and the use of physical force necessary for many tasks. The Bellevue Care Center, 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 and assisting with their many other daily activities. Employees perform an average of 24 and 30 patient transfers per day. This facility would like to educate its staff members of proper lifting techniques and encourage employees to adopt a “No-Lift” policy. Lack of modern equipment, resulting in inconsistent utilization of their current lift has hindered the institution of this policy.

Solution:

Bellevue Care Center purchased a modern resident lift device (a new Vanderlift and a sling) that is electrically powered. The new lift can be operated by one person for both lifting and transferring residents. Their goal was to make the residents feel more comfortable by being lifted with a modern lifting device that has been engineered to be much safer than the old manual lifting devices, while also making it easier and less stressful to the staff.



Results:



- Lost Days Rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 4.85 to 4.35 in 24 months following the intervention, a 10% improvement.
- Employee Turnover rate decreased from 106.7 to 101.2 over the same time period, a 5% improvement.
- Increases in CTD and Restricted Days rates were observed following the intervention but may not be directly attributed to it.