

Logan County/Logan Acres Nursing Home, Bellefontaine

Intervention Key Words: Automation, Lifting, Motorized Lift, Transfer

Industry: Health Care

Risk Factor(s): Awkward Postures-Back, Neck and Shoulder deviations, Manual Material 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, often involving assisting the resident transfer into and out of chairs and beds. The repetitive motions and awkward positions during lifting create a high risk for Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs), and the number of nursing home injuries due to patient lifting is a serious problem. Injuries to the back, neck and shoulders have become a rule rather than an exception. Logan Acres Nursing home in Bellefontaine is no exception. In 1998, the number of incidents involving lifting put Logan Acres into an insurance penalty phase. Other resultants include lost days, restricted days and employee turnover, all factors that contribute to higher costs for the employer and the residents, not to mention a high stress work environment. The goal of Logan Acres Nursing Home is to reduce the number of incidents involving patient lifting and improve the working and living conditions at their facility.

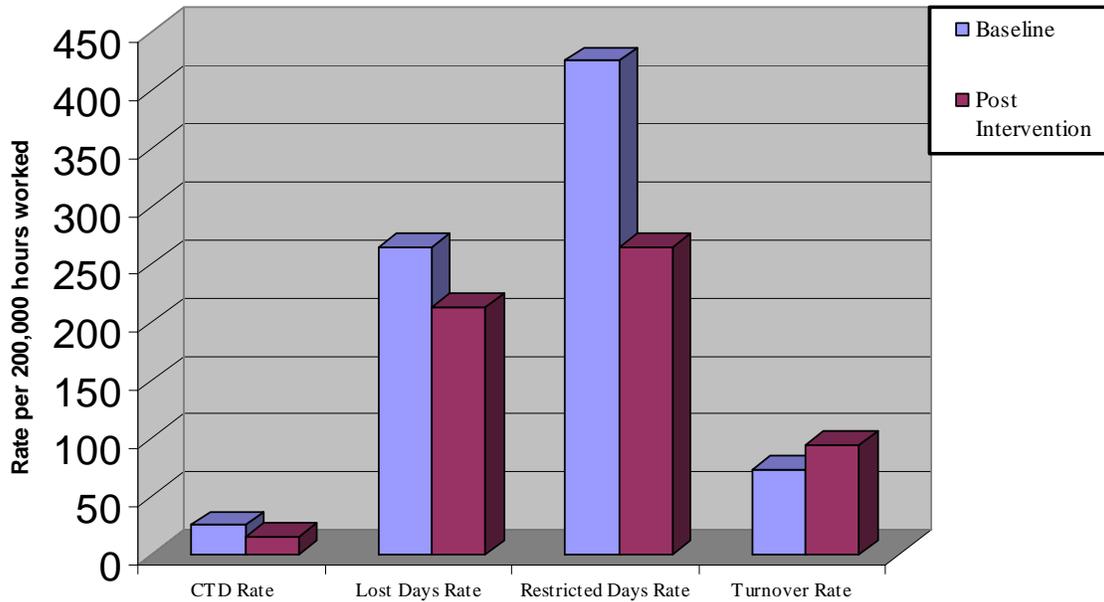
Solution:

Logan Acres approached the problem of occupational injury by purchasing mechanical patient lift systems (Total Cost: \$44,320). The lift systems eliminate the need for patient lifting by allowing the machine do all of the physical work. This has enabled the facility to institute a no lift policy, one of the easiest ways to reduce worker injury. This intervention was made possible with \$35,254 from Safety Grant\$.

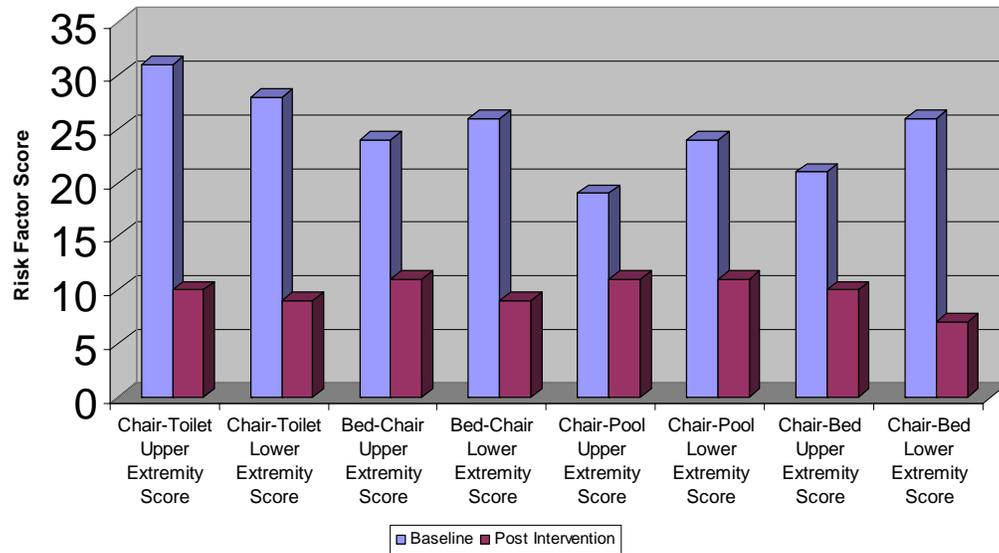


Nurse operating two of the lift systems purchased

Results:



- CTD Rate decreased from 24.8 to 15.5 incidents per 200,000 hours worked in 24 months following the intervention, a 38% improvement.
- Incidence of lost days and restricted days both decreased 20% and 38% respectively when standardized to 200,000 hours worked.
- Turnover rate had a small increase over the 1 year baseline study.



- Risk factor scores for 4 tasks decreased an average of 61% following the implementation of the intervention.