

Stow-Glen Inc., Stow

Intervention Key Words: High-Low Beds, Electrical Bed, Slings, Belts, Mechanical Lift, Transfer Lift

Industry: Health Care

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

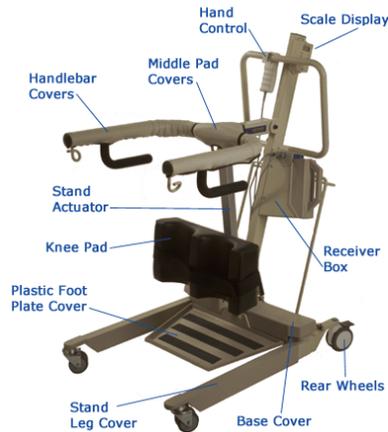
Situation:

The incidence Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) in nursing homes is a growing problem. Constant interaction between patients and employees and 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. Stow-Glen 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 and assisting with their many other daily activities. Stow-Glen would like to educate its staff members of proper lifting techniques and encourage employees to adopt a “No-Lift” policy. Lack of equipment and improper equipment has resulted in inconsistent lifting techniques, leading to an increase in CTD risks.

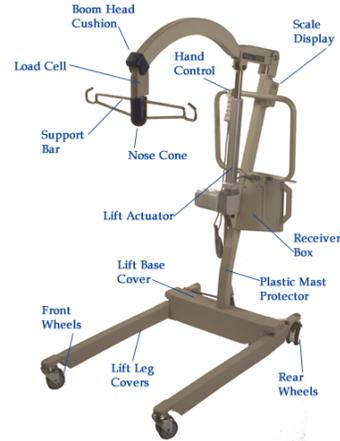
Solution:

To achieve their goal of having a “No-Lift” policy in place, Stow-Glen sought the help of ARJO Products and its “Back Injury Prevention Program” (BIPP). ARJO has designed a program which guarantees a 30% 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. ARJO offers its customers trade-in and upgrade opportunities as the needs of the care facility change. It was determined that Stow-Glen was in need of 4 patient lifts and a variety assorted slings and belts to be used with the lifts. The facility also purchased 10 electric beds. Since they are a 0 restraint facility, beds must be kept in a low position to prevent injuries to residents. Many of the old beds at Stow-Glen were not adjustable or had manual adjustments. Nurses either could not or did not raise the beds to appropriate lifting heights, leading to a significant CTD risk. The new beds make proper adjustment a quick and easy task. The total cost for the “Back Injury Prevention Program” to be implemented at the facility in addition to the purchase of the new beds was \$52,500. Assistance, in the form of \$40,000, was provided by Safety Grant\$ to offset the costs.

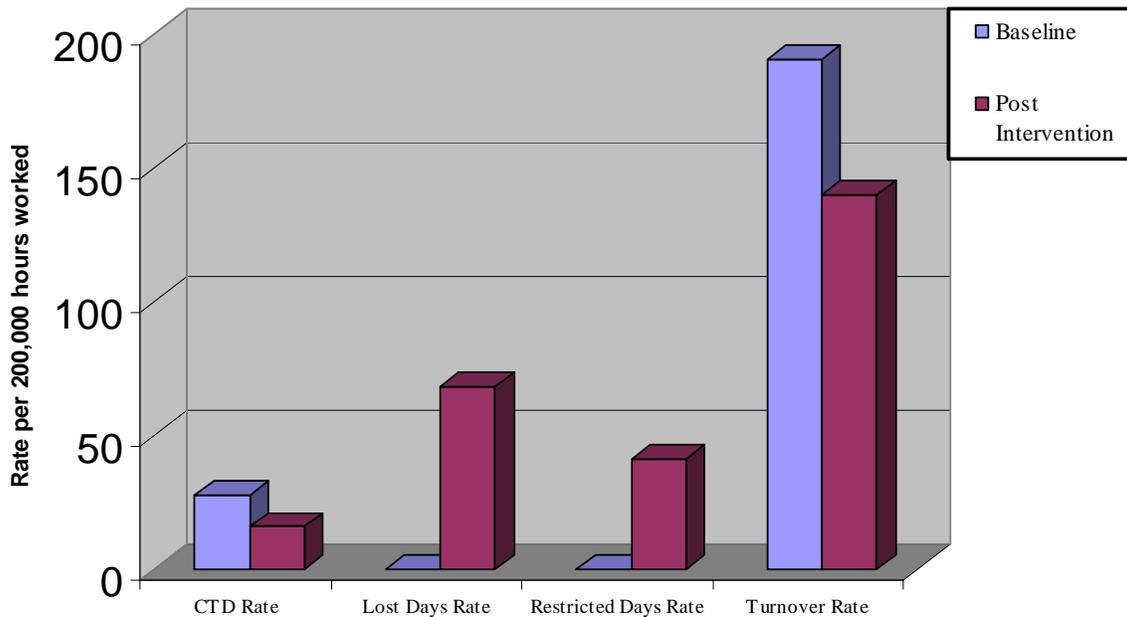
Medcare Stand-N-Weigh



Medcare Lift-N-Weigh



Results:



- CTD rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 27.6 the year prior to the intervention to 15.8 in the 2 years following, an improvement of 43%.
- Employee Turnover rate decreased from 190.7 to 140 over the same time period. This equates to a 27% improvement.
- Increases in Lost Days and Restricted Days rates were observed but may not be directly attributed to the intervention.
- CTD Risk Factor scores, averaged over 3 tasks, decreased 71% following the intervention.
- Incidence of resident skin tears was 144 tears the year prior to the intervention. The number of tears, averaged over the 2 years following the intervention, decreased to 51 tears per year.