

Oak Park Health Care Center, Oakwood Village

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

Industry: 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 Oak Park 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.



Bed at proper level to prevent injury in case of a fall

Solution:

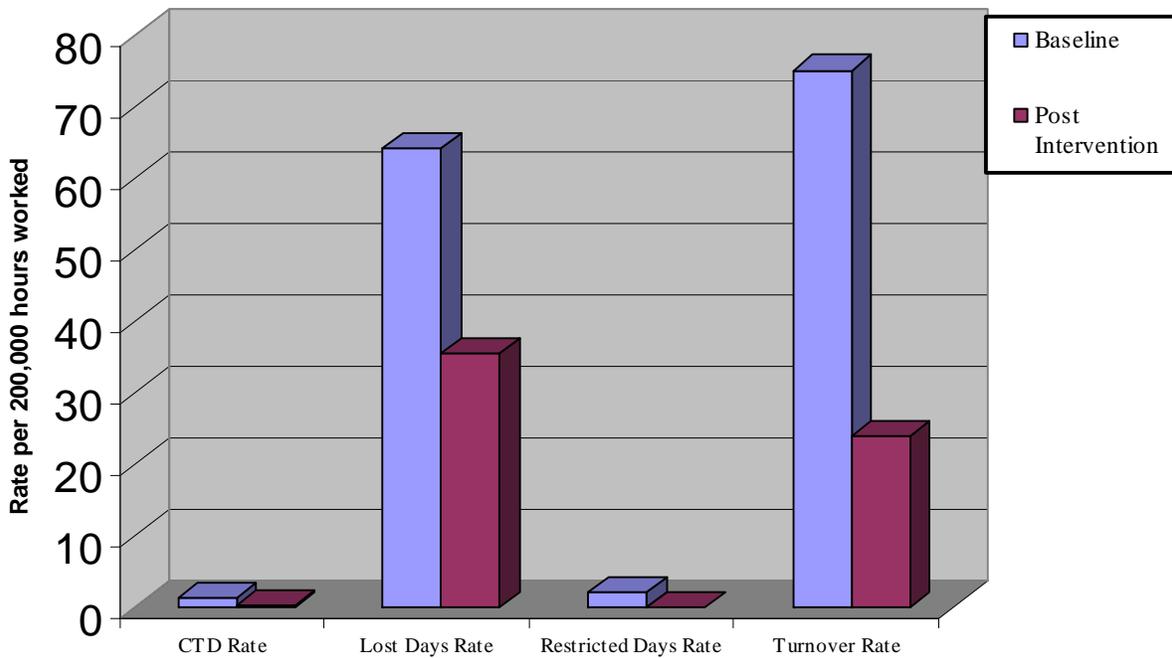
Oak Park Health Care Center approached the problem by purchasing 44 electrically operated beds. With the automated beds nurses can quickly lower or raise the patient to a height that is suitable for the situation. This allows the nurses to perform their duties without the necessity of bending over. The home also purchased mechanical resident lifts in order to reduce the amount of physical lifting the nurses must perform. The lifts are designed to help the patients achieve upright positions, or to help them into a wheelchair without exerting physical stresses on the nurses. The total cost of

purchasing 2 mechanical lifts and 44 electronic beds was \$51,718. Oak Park Health Care Center received \$40,000 in assistance from the Safety Grant\$ program.



Representation of bed and lift purchased by Oak Park

Results:



- CTD Rate (per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 1.4 the year prior to the intervention to 0.4 over the 2 years following, a 71% improvement.
- Lost Days rate decreased from 64.3 to 35.5, Restricted Days rate from 2.2 to 0 and Employee turnover rate from 75.1 to 23.9. The decreases equate to 45%, 100% and 68% improvements respectively.