



Enhancing Comfort, Well-being and Normalcy at Home

- ↑ Quality of life and feeling of normalcy significantly increased
- ↑ Skin integrity maintained
- ↑ Mum able to remain sole carer

Introduction

Joshua* (age 15) was a paediatric oncology patient who was receiving chemotherapy and blood transfusions at home.

Mum was his sole carer, with occasional help from family members.

His skin was vulnerable, and he had several areas of damage in the past which had healed. At the time of his assessment for bariatric equipment, he weighed 168kg and had a Category I pressure ulcer and two moisture lesions to his sacrum. He is incontinent, but with management systems in place.

Joshua could transfer from bed to chair with the assistance of two people, but was otherwise bed bound.

** Joshua is not the patient's real name*



Clinical Challenges

Joshua's skin was vulnerable to further breakdown. Prior to receiving the bariatric equipment package, he was using a divan bed with a hybrid mattress. This didn't help him to turn or reposition, which increased the risk of further skin damage.

The divan bed also made it difficult for Mum to care for him, especially as she was doing it alone. There was a risk of injury to both her and Joshua every time she helped him move.

Medstrom's Clinical Advisor commented:

"When I talked to Joshua and his Mum, the main objective was to supply equipment that could **enhance his quality of life** and **enable Mum** to remain sole carer. They wanted to **increase the feeling of normalcy at home.**"

Patient Objectives

- Improve quality of life, dignity of care, and achieve greater 'normalcy' at home
- Heal existing skin damage and prevent further breakdown
- Mum to be able to turn Joshua on her own and remain his sole carer
- Ability for Mum to get into bed with Joshua for his comfort needs

Introduction of Medstrom's Bariatric Equipment Package

A bariatric bed and surface were provided for Joshua to help meet both his and Mum's needs.

Pro-Bario Active Community Bed: This is specifically designed for home use. It has wooden head and foot boards and looks more like a piece of furniture than an electric profiling hospital bed.

The bed has a safe working load of 380kg and a platform width of 120cm, with a platform low height of 30cm. The electric controls allow effortless and frequent repositioning. An auto-contour button aids upright positioning and helps to prevent pushing the person down the bed, reducing shear and friction and reducing abdominal crunching.



TurnCair 1000 Low Air Loss Surface: This provides a high specification of support surface for pressure redistribution, plus a TurnAssist feature that enables safe and dignified handling of patients. The low air loss feature keeps skin drier and cooler, to help prevent skin breakdown and allow existing damage to heal.

The Pro-Bario Active bed allowed Mum to reposition Joshua much more easily, and Joshua to reposition himself using the electric controls. The extra width and side rails made turning more safe and easier, and the low height allowed Joshua to sit on the edge of the bed with his feet on the floor to play his video games.

The width of the platform and the safe working load of the bed meant Mum could get onto the bed with Joshua safely and easily.

The TurnAssist feature on the mattress made it much easier for Mum to turn Joshua on her own.

Joshua's mobility remained the same throughout, but this was due to his clinical condition. All objectives for Joshua were met; his quality of life, comfort and the feeling of normalcy at home were all significantly improved. The skin damage he had prior to receiving the bariatric equipment was healing, with no new breakdown. Mum could turn him more easily on her own, so their wish for her to remain sole carer was achieved, and Mum could now safely get onto the bed with Joshua when she needed to.



Normalcy achieved



Skin intact



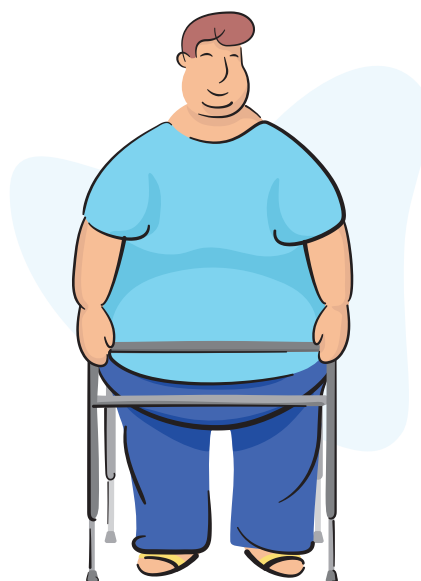
Safe for one carer

Summary

The bariatric equipment provided made an immediate and significant improvement to quality of life for both Joshua and Mum. Selecting the right equipment was vital to achieve this; the 'homely' look of the bed, together with its electric controls, extra width and safe working load made it much easier and safer for Joshua to move. He could also sit on the edge of the bed to play his games which he hadn't been able to do previously.

Turning Joshua became much easier due to the mattress. It was easier for Mum, and more comfortable and dignified for Joshua.

Overall, the feeling of normalcy was significantly increased, benefitting the whole family.



To discover more about Medstrom's range of solutions for dignified plus-size patient care and enhanced support for caregivers, contact Medstrom's Bariatric Product Specialists 24/7/365 on:

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