

End-of-Life Care: The TurnCair 1000 Surface Helped to Provide Comfort, Reassurance and Dignity in a Hospice Setting

- ↑ Dignified end-of-life care
- ↑ Comfort and pain management
- ↓ Reduced anxiety

Introduction

Colin* (age 57) was admitted to a hospice for end-of-life care, due to metastatic bowel cancer.

On admission Colin weighed 147kg. Prior to hospital admission he was able to transfer to a chair with the aid of two people, but due to a deterioration in his physical capacity was now bedbound in the hospice.

His comorbidities included lymphoedema and congestive cardiac failure.

Colin had a Category II pressure ulcer on his sacrum and a skin tear on his left buttock on admission. He was highly vulnerable to further skin breakdown due to immobility and his deteriorating physical condition.

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



Clinical Challenges

Colin was in a lot of pain which needed to be brought under control not only with medication, but also by causing the least amount of discomfort when he was being repositioned and receiving personal care. He couldn't tolerate turning and as a result he was becoming extremely anxious prior to repositioning.

Colin's skin was extremely vulnerable, and he needed a surface which would assist with healing of existing damage and prevention of new.

It was important for staff to be able to safely care for Colin and reduce manual handling risks as much as possible.

Patient Objectives

- To be pain-free and comfortable
- Prevent further skin deterioration

Introduction of Medstrom's Bariatric Equipment Package

Prior to Medstrom's equipment being utilised, Colin was being cared for on a hospice-owned bariatric bed and a hybrid surface. The bed width was sufficient, but he found the surface uncomfortable. Additionally, as the surface had no turning function, it didn't help the staff achieve this and was causing Colin a lot of pain and anxiety every time he was repositioned.

Following a discussion with Colin and the hospice clinical team, Medstrom's Clinical Advisor arranged for a TurnCair 1000 surface to be installed:

TurnCair 1000 Low Air Loss Surface: This provides a high specification of support surface for pressure redistribution.

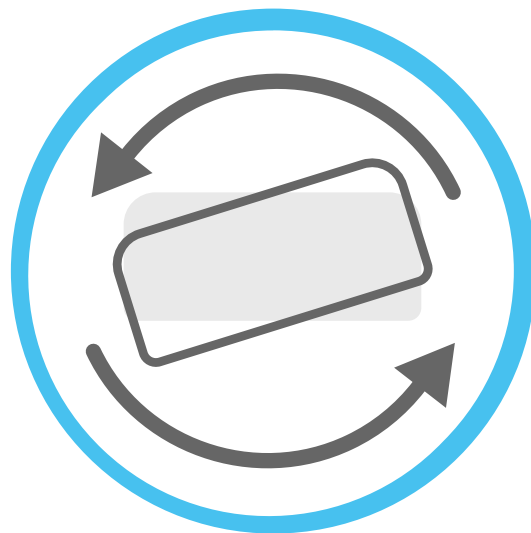
The surface also includes a TurnAssist feature that allows safe and dignified handling of the patient and can be programmed to gently turn the patient at set intervals. This was beneficial both for Colin's comfort and for manual handling.

The low air loss feature helped to keep Colin's skin dry and cool, which helped to prevent any further breakdown.

Staff found manual handling to be considerably easier with the TurnCair 1000 surface. It required less physical effort on their part, reducing moving and handling risks.

The reduced hands-on physical repositioning was very beneficial for Colin. He stated that the pain was reduced significantly when he was being turned with the assistance of the mattress. As a result, his level of anxiety also decreased substantially due to not worrying about the pain of being repositioned.

Colin was nursed on the TurnCair 1000 surface until he passed away peacefully two weeks later. All objectives for him had been met; the surface had greatly reduced the pain he was experiencing on moving and provided comfortable repositioning. This reduced his anxiety, helping him psychologically. There was no further deterioration in his skin, and no new areas of breakdown.



Summary

It was extremely important that Colin was kept as pain-free as possible for both physical and psychological reasons. The act of manually turning him, whilst necessary for personal care, was very distressing for both him and the caregivers. The TurnCair 1000 surface, which reduced physical handling during care and provided gentle, automatic turning in between, significantly improved Colin's comfort, dignity and well-being.



Pain reduced



Comfort and dignity



Anxiety reduced

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:

UK: 0845 371 1717 or info@medstrom.co.uk IRE: 01 686 9487 or info@medstrom.ie