

Complex Patient: 'Stepping Up' and 'Stepping Down' the Medstrom Select Product Portfolio for Improved Patient Outcomes.

- ↑ Fully Dependent to Mobile
- ↑ Healed Complex Wounds
- ↑ Faster Rehabilitation

Introduction

Sarah* was a 22 year old female, who on admission to hospital weighed 152kg. Sarah's clinical conditions included:

- Fibromyalgia
- Degenerative spine and disc conditions
- Spondylosis
- Chronic Spine and Back Pain
- Spinal deformity

At the age of 17, Sarah was in a car accident and suffered multiple broken bones to her legs. Since 2017, Sarah underwent physiotherapy for two years to try and ease the pain in her lower lumbar area.

In 2022, Sarah was admitted to hospital due to severe pain in her back and hips, resulting in loss of sensation from the waist down. On admission, due to the pain, Sarah was unable to stand or walk.

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



Clinical Challenges

Sarah was transferred to Neurosurgery after X-Rays and an MRI scan revealed she had spinal compression where the discs in her lower lumbar had degenerated from the car accident in 2017. Sarah had emergency surgery to rectify this via a discectomy. This procedure is used to remove a disc when it has herniated and presses on a nerve root or the spinal cord.

After surgery, there were large wounds to Sarah's spine. Sarah's clinical condition began to deteriorate and blood supply became restricted. Sarah then underwent elective surgery for proximal lower limb amputation and bilateral hip disarticulation. During this time, Sarah was unable to mobilise and was completely bed-bound.

Patient Objectives

- Pain management
- Return to mobilisation

Introduction of Medstrom's Bariatric Equipment Package

On admission, due to Sarah's weight of 152kg, bariatric equipment was identified as a requirement. Staff ordered a Bari10A Bed and TurnCair 1000 to initially support Sarah:

Bari10A Bed: The Bari10A was selected as it is appropriate for immobile patients and has a high safe working load of 475kg. Uniquely able to extend in width and length, the four-section platform can be customised for optimal patient comfort, whilst providing safe and strain-free access for caregivers. The one-button full chair position aids respiratory function and can improve patient well-being.

TurnCair 1000 Low Air Loss Surface: The TurnCair 1000 is a high specification low air loss surface. This was initially selected for Sarah due to her being so immobile and therefore at high risk of skin breakdown.

Stepping Up ↑

After surgery however, and as Sarah's clinical condition became more complex with surgical wounds and amputations, Medstrom's Bariatric Specialist, advised to 'step up' the patient to Dolphin Therapy Extra-Wide.

Dolphin Therapy Extra-Wide: Dolphin Therapy is a reactive therapy system that creates a simulated fluid environment, enabling full immersion and envelopment, significantly reducing pressure, shear and tissue deformation. It is the ideal choice for a complex patient as vascular occlusion is minimised, maintaining near normal blood flow. Dolphin Therapy was deemed suitable to accelerate healing of Sarah's wounds. It is also a surface evidenced to assist with pain management due to a patient being nursed in a fluid environment.



Stepping Down ↓

After only seven days on Dolphin Therapy, Sarah's wounds showed remarkable improvement and had started to heal. To ensure appropriate product utilisation, it was decided patient Sarah no longer required Dolphin Therapy and TurnCair 1000 was installed again. The bed frame was also swapped from a Bari10A to an MMO 8000.

MMO 8000: As Sarah started to improve, the MMO 8000 bed was installed as it is an effective tool to begin encouraging mobilisation. At an ultra-low height of 21cm, and an ultra-high height of 83cm, it caters for both patient mobilisation out of bed, and staff for in-bed care.

Five days later, Sarah was encouraged to use the bed controls herself to profile the bed into a seated position whilst physios worked on seated balance. At this point, the Medstrom Bariatric Specialist decided to introduce the Tilt-in-Space Chair.

Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair: This was selected to aid trunk control and begin to get the patient familiar with being out of bed.

Four days later, patient Sarah was improving further, so it was decided to 'step down' the surface once again and provide a P.R.O. Matt Extra-Wide and Bariatric Static Chair.

P.R.O. Matt Extra-Wide: This offers the same benefits as a foam mattress for mobilisation, however its significantly higher therapy than a foam due to cell-in-cell semi-dynamic technology and means patients are still receiving high levels of protection.

The combination of the P.R.O. Matt Extra-Wide and MMO8000 provided a stable surface and low bed height to allow Sarah to control the functions herself. Sarah started to take the bed to the same height as her static chair and then use a banana board to transfer herself. Overall, it provided an effective combination to influence Sarah to mobilise.



Summary

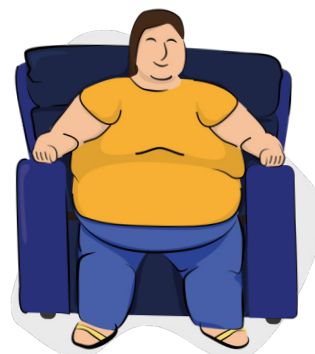
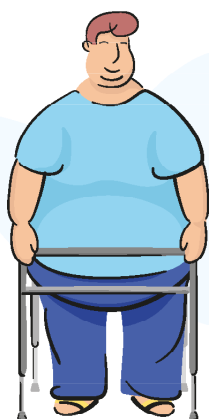
OTs became involved in the latter part of Sarah's care, and following a home assessment, Medstrom provided a Pro-Bario Active Community Bed and TurnCair 1000 until a suitable bed was funded from community equipment services.

This case study is a strong example of how to utilise the Medstrom support surface and bed portfolio at the right time, dependent on the patient's clinical status and needs. Through utilising different surfaces, dependent on acuity and mobility, Sarah was able to heal her skin damage whilst not hindering rehabilitation.

The use of three bed frames (Bari10A to MMO 8000 to Pro-Bario Active) enabled Sarah to transition from being fully dependent to mobile in a short space of time which considering the complexities of her case is remarkable.

Both clinical objectives had been met and exceeded, and Medstrom's Bariatric Specialist concluded:

"At Medstrom, we firmly advocate **right product, right patient, right time**. This case study is a clear indication of how stepping up and down equipment can ultimately ensure **product usage is maximised** and therefore **improved patient outcomes are achieved**. Throughout the care of Sarah, equipment was only brought in when needed. This ensures **ethical renting practices are maintained** and **equipment is removed when no longer required**. It was also great to support Sarah with getting **home** and facilitating **further rehabilitation** in her own environment"



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](tel:08453711717) or info@medstrom.co.uk IRE: [01 686 9487](tel:016869487) or info@medstrom.ie