

# Long Term Care: Providing the Right Pieces of Equipment to Build Confidence and Mobility

- ↑ **Increased Confidence**
- ↓ **Reduction in Falls**
- ↑ **Improved Quality of Life**

## Introduction

Victoria\* was a 25 year old female who weighed 142kg. Her clinical conditions included:

- Severe learning disability
- Epilepsy
- Sensory impairments

*\*Victoria is not the patient's real name*

## Clinical Challenges

Previously cared for at home by Mum, Victoria was becoming harder to manage and Mum was finding it increasingly difficult to meet the needs of her daughter. The house they lived in was two floors, and Victoria was unable to mobilise sufficiently to get upstairs to the bathroom and toilet on her own. The doorways were too narrow to move the wheelchair through the house which meant Victoria had become confined to her bedroom.

Subsequently, this has exacerbated Victoria's condition and she became frustrated and isolated, resulting in lashing out at her Mum and causing harm to herself.

Victoria was admitted to A&E after breaking her foot through repeated kicking of her bed foot board. After a referral to social services, they advised Victoria required respite.

Whilst in respite, Victoria was being mobilised from a standard med surg bed that was too high and unfortunately causing several falls. This also impacted the healing of her foot, and Victoria became frightened of falling again so refused to leave her bed.

Victoria was then found a long term care home, specifically for learning difficulties and this is when Medstrom were contacted by the OT in charge of her care.

## Patient Objectives

- **Safe mobilisation**
- **Reduced risk of falls**



## Introduction of Medstrom's Bariatric Equipment Package

Upon assessing the patient, Medstrom's Bariatric Specialist knew equipment that would help Victoria gain confidence and mobility was required, and the following was installed:

**MMO 8000 Bed:** The MMO 8000 goes to an ultra-low height of 21cm (roughly 18cm lower than the current med surg bed Victoria was familiar with). As Victoria has epilepsy, it was vital the risk of falls was prevented specifically around the bed space. The ultra-low height bed was selected to reduce falls risk whilst still enabling Victoria to stand.

**TurnCair 1000 Low Air Loss Surface:** Whilst staff worked to build Victoria's confidence, Medstrom's Bariatric Specialist was mindful Victoria would be spending extra time in bed and therefore at greater risk of skin breakdown. The TurnCair 1000 low air loss surface offers therapeutic benefits for pressure redistribution, plus can be put into automated turns if Victoria didn't want to get out of bed.

One month later during a follow-up assessment, Medstrom's Bariatric Specialist added a **Bariatric Wheelchair** and **Bariatric Commode/ Shower Chair**. Victoria had progressed to standing and walking a few steps in her room, so the additional equipment was brought in to allow for personal care. It was also commented that the additional equipment gave Victoria confidence to meet with other residents and enabled her to eat meals in the communal dining area.



## Summary

All equipment continues to be used and as Victoria is prone to seizures, the equipment enables staff to know they have the correct tools in place for her varying degrees of mobility. The equipment has given Victoria confidence and staff are satisfied it is still required to assist Victoria with her clinical challenges.

Medstrom's Bariatric Product Specialist concluded:

"The equipment chosen has provided Victoria with the **correct support** to continue **building confidence** to becoming **more independent**. Within herself, she is much **happier** and the equipment has allowed her to settle in her new environment. Victoria's story is a good example of how **inappropriate equipment** can often lead to a **decline in confidence**, and emphasises how important it is to consider a **holistic approach to patient care**, with equipment needing to be a key **factor** within these multi-disciplinary decisions"

**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](mailto:info@medstrom.co.uk) IRE: 01 686 9487 or [info@medstrom.ie](mailto:info@medstrom.ie)**