



CASE STUDY

MOFFITT CANCER CENTER

Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612

HoverMatt® Air Transfer System Implementation Leads to Reduced Injuries and Associated Costs

Situation

A need for equipment to address safety risks and reduce injuries

Healthcare facilities are responding to the need to improve caregiver and patient safety and reduce the costs associated with workplace injuries in a field that represents some of the highest rates of musculoskeletal injuries of any profession. Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL is one such facility that recognized the need to implement equipment that would address the many safety risks present in their facility. The main objective at Moffitt was to reduce the number of lifting injuries that occurred every year, and thereby reduce the direct costs of the injury as well as the associated indirect costs resulting from staff lost days and modified duty days. Additionally, as a cancer center focused on “patient-centered care”, one of Moffitt’s primary goals is to minimize pain and improve comfort and safety for patients. A further goal was to identify equipment that staff would use, as their existing equipment was not used consistently due to the time and effort involved to learn and utilize it.

Implementation

HoverMatt® Air Transfer System implemented to reduce staff lifting injuries

Moffitt identified that their rate of lifting injuries (including those associated with lateral transfers) for caregivers was high and resulted in direct costs of over \$250,000 annually and indirect costs such as lost work days and modified duty days. To target these injuries, Moffitt selected HoverTech International as their safe patient handling vendor and the HoverMatt® Air Transfer System as their primary piece of equipment for lateral transfers, turning and repositioning. Moffitt implemented HoverTech’s Consignment Program for Single-Patient Use HoverMatt® Air Transfer Systems (SPUs), Air Supplies and Storage/Transport Carts. Through the Consignment Program, Moffitt was able to outfit the facility with an appropriate number of air supplies to ensure ease of use for caregivers. All inpatient units have at least one air supply and “horseshoe” shaped departments have two. Air supplies are also located in X-Ray, CT-Scan, Radiation Therapy, Interventional Radiology, OR, PACU and outpatient units. The SPUs are stored in a Pyxis system for most departments, while the OR and outpatient units use par levels to ensure the product is stocked properly. In order to encourage appropriate use of the HoverMatt, criteria were established by a team of industry safe patient handling experts (Fig. 1). The HoverMatt Criteria is considered a guideline and it is ultimately up to the clinical person’s decision to use an SPU. A three person lift team was also introduced to combat lifting injuries.

HOVERMATT CRITERIA		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient is weak, immobile, unable to bear weight in lower extremities, unable to stand • Patient is unable to assist with transferring or repositioning • Patient has had extensive surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post surgical patient that is heavily sedated and will need to be transferred or repositioned frequently or going for many tests • Patients who are frail, debilitated, or have pain with movement • Potential for skin tears or pressure sores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient will be on bed rest or bedridden for 1-2 days post surgery • Patient has had a decline in medical status and is bedridden or on ventilator support • If patient has had a special surgical procedure please discuss with MD prior to using

Figure 1



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Conclusion

The use of the HoverMatt® Air Transfer System helped to increase staff compliance, improve patient comfort, and reduce lifting injuries and their direct and indirect costs

One year following implementation, staff lifting injuries were cut in half (Fig. 2) and the total direct cost of lifting injuries was reduced by over 96% (Fig. 3). With the addition of more equipment and further staff training the subsequent year, Moffitt ultimately recognized a 98% dollar decrease in direct costs (Fig. 3).

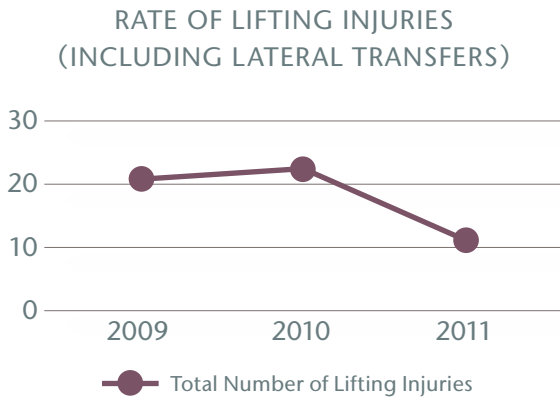


Figure 2: Rate of lifting injuries dropped over 50%, from 21 in 2009 to 10 in 2011.

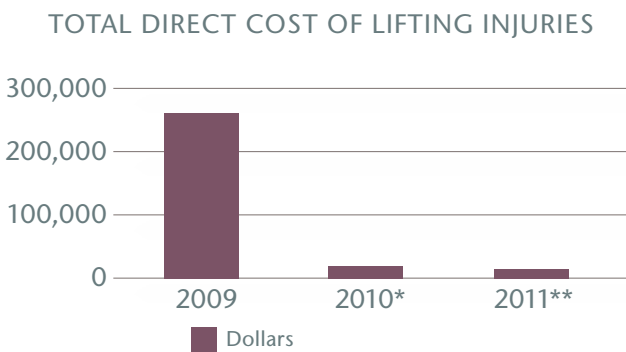


Figure 3: Direct cost of lifting injuries was reduced by 96%, from \$265,000 in 2009 to \$5,000 in 2011.

*2010 added a 3 person lift team and HoverMatt equipment throughout the facility

**2011 added more HoverMatts and performed more training, which resulted in an increase of staff "on board" with the equipment

Furthermore, lost time for injured staff and modified duty days saw a dramatic drop (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5).

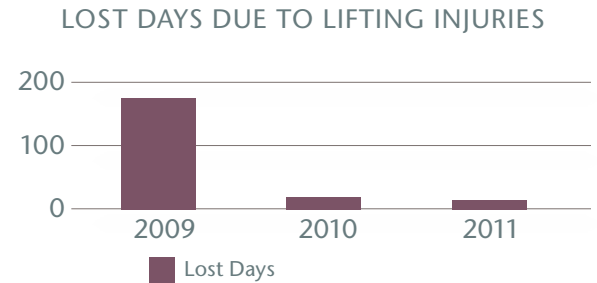


Figure 4: Lost days due to lifting injuries dropped 96%, from 183 in 2009 to 7 in 2011.

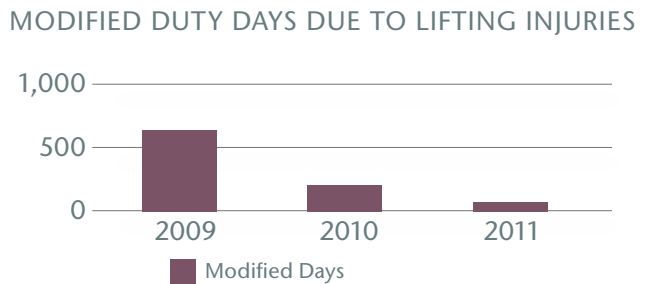


Figure 5: Modified duty days decreased by 88%, from 638 in 2009 to 77 in 2011.

The program continues to receive an overwhelmingly positive response from staff, who have embraced the HoverMatt for its "ease of use", as well as from patients and their families, who appreciate the comfort and dignity that the HoverMatt affords during transfers and repositioning.

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