

Preventing Facility-Acquired Pressure Ulcers in a Diverse Acute Care Population Using a Pressure-Redistribution Surface

Introduction:

The recent regulatory change in the **Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)** provides an incentive for acute care hospitals to take pressure ulcer prevention seriously. As a Magnet credentialed hospital, Mercy Medical Center has consistently tracked facility-acquired pressure ulcer data and has benchmarked with the **National Databank of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI)**. While our pressure ulcer data has always compared quite favorably, the recent payment ramifications of IPPS provided us with an opportunity for improvement.

Purpose:

Our current pressure redistribution support surfaces did not meet the mobility and safety needs of our diverse patient population. Our goal was to reduce the number of facility-acquired pressure ulcers in a diverse acute care population by employing more effective pressure redistribution surfaces.

Method:

A multidisciplinary committee was formed to make recommendations for future purchase of beds and support surfaces. This was a two-year endeavor. The factors that were considered included:

- ✓ Pressure redistribution as supported by clinical trials
- ✓ Infection control
- ✓ Ease of cleaning and maintenance
- ✓ Staff and patient safety
- ✓ Ease of patient bed mobility.

The Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses played an integral role in the process and decision-making. Members of the committee visited prospective bed and mattress companies. A product fair was held to seek staff input and concerns. The committee also looked at buying contracts for best pricing, as financial constraints must be recognized in all capital purchases.

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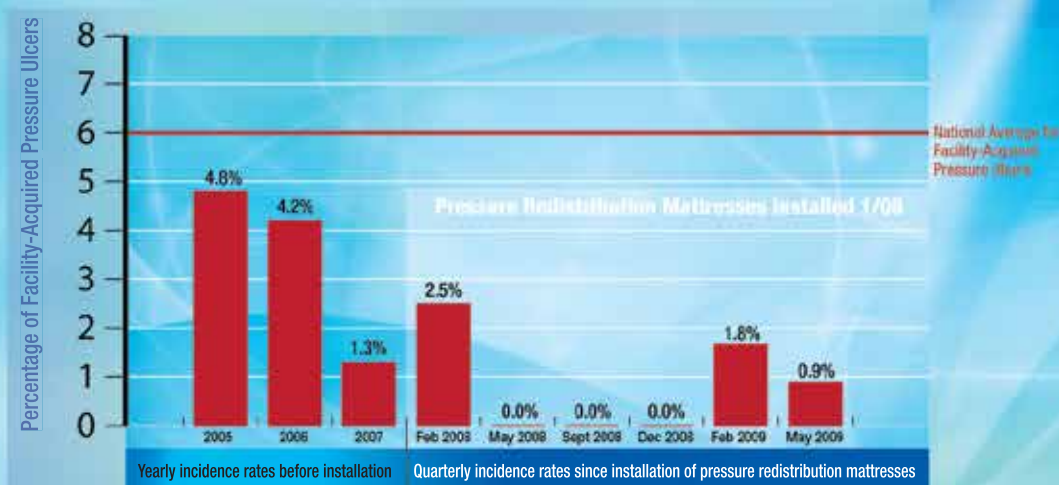
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Conclusion:

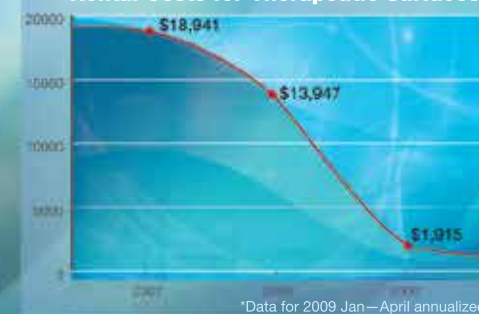
Achieved

We were able to achieve **near zero** incidence of facility-acquired pressure ulcers while meeting the mobility and safety needs of a diverse patient population in a cost effective manner.



The support of Encompass Therapeutic Support Systems for this project is gratefully acknowledged.

Rental Costs for Therapeutic Surfaces



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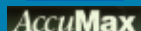
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