Patient Lift Teams

By: William Charney, DOH
• LIFTING TEAMS PUT RISK WHERE IT CAN BE CONTROLLED; IN SMALL GROUPS OF TEAMS RATHER THAN HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF NURSING PERSONNEL
• ONE OF THE MAJOR RISK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES OF LIFT TEAMS IS THAT LIFTING IS A SKILL NOT A RANDOM TASK
GOAL

• NURSES DOING ALMOST NO LIFTING; THIS CREATES A REDUCTION OF EXPOSURE TO INJURY POTENTIAL
RESULTS OF PEER REVIEW STUDIES
Charney: 10 Hospital Study

• *69% Reduction in Injury Rate
• *62% Reduction in Incident Rate
• *90% Reduction in Lost Days
• *72% Reduction in Workers Comp Cost
• *23.5 Combined Years of Lift Team Experience
Charney: 18 Hospital Study

- All 18 participating hospitals that provided data showed statistically significant reductions in lost days, medical costs, numbers of injuries, restricted days
St. Francis Medical Center, Indiana

- Lift Team 24/7
- 17 Lift Team Members: Some internal hires some external hires
- 710 Bed Acute Care Facility
- One Year 16,000 Lift Teams did 16,000 Lifts and 26,000 Turns/Repositions (2005)
St. Francis Results: One Year (continued)

- 39% Reduction of Lost Work Days
- 54% Reduction of Restricted Work Days
- 72% Reduction in Medical Costs
- Total Savings First Year: $440,000
- Equipment Investment: $54,000
92% Staff Satisfaction
80% Reported Less Muscle Strain
78% Reported Safer Working Environment
73% Reported More Time for Other Duties
48% Reported Improved Staff Morale
St. Francis: Employee Data (continued)

- Pressure Ulcer Incidence Rate Declined Each Quarter
- Patients Out of Bed More Frequently
- Patients Turned/Repositioned More Often
- 81% of Staff Reported Patient Transfer Safer
- 43% of Staff Reported Improved Patient Satisfaction with Lift Team Transfers
UC Davis: Data

- 2005: No Injury Claims Since the Lift Team Implemented
- 2004: 23 Patient Handling Claims
- 2003: 47 Patient Handling Claims
UC Davis: Data (continued)

• Medical Center Expects to Save $500,000 per Year in Claim Costs
• Initial Start Up Costs: $260,000 a Year in Wages - 14 Lift Team Members in Two Person Teams in 12 Hour Shifts
• Service Available 24/7
• Pay: $14.81/Hour # of Lifts/Day 140
Mt. Diablo Healthcare, California

- 576 Bed Facility
- Reduction of Claims for Back Injury
  $475,000 Since 2002
Kent Hospital, Rhode Island

- 359 Beds
- 8 Regular Lift Team Members/5 per Diem
- 5 days/wk: 7:30-11pm
- Weekends: 7:30am-4pm
- One team: 7:30am-4pm/One team: 10-2pm
- One team: 2:30pm-11pm
Kent Hospital-Warwick, Rhode Island
Pre Lift Team vs. Post Lift Team Injuries

FY 04: 40
FY 05: 14
Kent Hospital-Warwick, Rhode Island

Lost Work Days
Pre Lift Team vs. Post Lift Team

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Kent Hospital-Warwick, Rhode Island
Medical & Indemnity Costs FY 04 vs. FY 05
Pre Lift Team vs. Post Lift Team

FY 04: $220,330
FY 05: $76,419
Kent Hospital-Warwick, Rhode Island
Modified Work Days-FY 04 vs. FY 05
Pre Lift Team vs. Post Lift Team

FY 04: 1058
FY 05: 419
Kaiser Lift Team Data, Northern California

- Five Hospitals Reporting a 33% Decrease in Nursing Departments in Workers’ Comp Claims.
- Kaiser Now Requires Lift Teams in All California Facilities
Large Metropolitan Hospital, Seattle Region

• Reduced Lost Workdays from 1474 to 470 in the First Year of Implementation
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## TRI-CITY HEALTH SYSTEMS

(continued)

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Sutter Health System, California

- Six Year Review of Back Injury Reduction in Nursing
- Frequency Reduction from 12.9 to 1.3
- Indemnity Reduction from 9.7 to 0.8
Woodland Health Care

- Crossed Trained a Transport Team to Lift Team
- Two Year Prior Data Showed 151 and 171 Lost and Restricted Days
- Post Lift Team were Reduced to 2
Over 60,000 Lifts Performed Without Injury

To Staff or Lift Team Members on the Shifts Covered

Restricted Days were Reduced by 361%

$310,000 Reduction in Cost of Back Injury for 4 Years
Alaska Native Medical Center

- Five Year Comparable Data showed Lift Teams
- Reduced from 61 Lost Days per 100 FTEs to 20
- Lost Days per 100 FTEs
- Teams Run 7 Days per Week 8am to 6pm
- The Teams Perform 10,000 Patient Contacts Per Year
University of Washington Medical Center

6 Month Data

- 63% Reduction in Injury
- 86% Reduction in Lost Days
- 63% Reduction in Sick Hours Used
Sioux Valley Medical Center

- 500 Bed Hospital 2 Years Data
- Reduced Injury Claims: 69%
- Reduced Lost Days: 95%
- Reduced Restricted Days: 88%
- Reduced Average Cost per Injury Due to Patient Handling from $9,894 to $1,099
- Medical Cost Savings Direct and Indirect Cost by $690,504
University of Chicago Hospital

- 576 Beds
- 30-60 Lifts a day
- Running 2 Teams 7 Days per Week
  Covering 8am to 9pm
- Reduced Injuries by 40% the First Year
NURSING HOME DATA

Caska reported on Lift Teams in 3 Nursing Home Units in a Medical Center:

• Results: 0 Injuries on Units or Shifts that had Access to Lift Teams

Source: AOHP Journal; December 2003
Donaldson Study 296 Bed Facility

- 60% Reduction in Claim Frequency X One Year and 90% Reduction in Claim Frequency X 6 Years
- 98.6% Decrease in Incurred Losses for the 6 Year Period

Source: AOHP Journal; December 2003
Davis Study:
University of Washington

- 62.7% Reduction in Sick Calls Due to Back Injury on Lift Team Shift
- 85.5% Reduction in Lost Workdays from Patient Related Injuries
- Represents a One Year Intervention Study

Source: AOHP Journal; December 2003
Harborview Hospital

- 62% Reduction in Injuries
- Hospital Hiring and Maintaining Teams Despite Global Hospital Budget Deficits
Tampa General Hospital

- 900+ Bed Facility
- Lift Teams 24/7
- Ceiling Lifts Installed in Most Areas
- 2004: 1 Lost Time Injury with a Cost of $26,000
- Prior Costs approximately $500,000+/Year
- 12 Member Team
• Overall Data for Facilities with Lift Teams in California Kaiser Systems showed a 7% Decrease in Injuries as Compared to a 17% Increase in Injuries in Facilities Without Lift Teams

Advantages of Lift Teams

- Allows the Return of Injured Workers Back to Bedside Medical Care without Fear of Re-Injury
- Allows Already Injured Workers with Previous Injuries to Continue Working Without Fear of Re-Injury
- Reduces Turnover and Vacancy Rates

Source: Hefti AAOHN vol. 51 no. 6
Advantages

• Can Perform High Risk Lifts Without Injury
• Can Perform Bariatric Lifts Without Injury
• Can Perform Re-Positionings Without Injury
• Can Protect the Patient from Patient Falls thereby Lowering Indemnity Risk Potential
University Hospital, Portland

- $100,000 Average Cost per Year for Direct Cost of Injury Over 3 Years Reduced to 58% in First Study Year for a 500 Bed Hospital
- Running Lift Teams 24/7
- Average # of Services per Month = 1674
- Average # of Services per Day = 56
- Average Response Time = 3 Minutes
University Hospital (continued)

- Reduced Workers’ Comp Claims from $100,000 for the Pre Year to $21,000 to Post Year
- Injuries were Reduced from 51 Recordable to 41 Recordable Claims
University Hospital (continued)

- Average Service Time 10 Minutes
- Re-Positioning and Turning was the Majority of Calls Averaging about 70%
- Nursing Satisfaction Rated at an Extremely High Level
Turnover Rates Computed

In one study using lift teams, a 500 bed hospital reduced its turnover rate to .68% compared to a national average of 15.7% and its vacancy rate was reduced to 8.76% compared to a national average of 11% (AHA Data).

Source: Hefti: AAOHN vol. 51 no. 6 2003