Fall Prevention Solutions with the most Advanced Patient and Bed Monitoring System Available

"Falls acquired during a patient's stay are unacceptable and are a source of a sickening feeling as a manager," said Terri Stuyri, Nurse Manager at Garden City Hospital. "When we examined vendors for our bed replacement, two key considerations were patient safety features and service excellence. Stryker is the company we chose."

Industry Trends

More than one third of adults ages 65 and older fall each year in the United States. They are also the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma. In 2004, more than 14,900 people ages 65 and older died from injuries related to falls; approximately 1.8 million people ages 65 and older were treated in emergency departments for nonfatal injuries from falls, and about 433,000 of these patients were hospitalized. The rates of fall related deaths among older adults rose significantly over the past decade, and are the leading cause of injury deaths.¹

A study of people ages 72 and older found that the average health care cost of a fall injury was $24,962.* The total cost of all fall injuries for people 65 and older in 2000 was slightly more than $19 billion. By 2020, the annual direct and indirect cost of fatal injuries is expected to reach $43.8 billion.²

Increased Focus

The 2008 Joint Commission's Goal #9, to reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls, has identified the necessity for increased awareness.³ Additionally, October 1st 2008 will welcome in many changes to Medicare reimbursements. "This change represents the leading edge of a series of anticipated CMS reforms of provider payment."³ Under this new ruling, Medicare will no longer reimburse hospitals for the treatment of selected "conditions that could reasonably have been prevented," including those for preventable falls from a hospital bed. Additionally, "facilities cannot bill a beneficiary for any charges associated with the particular hospital-acquired complication."³ Considering these changes, along with the increasing average cost of a fall, it will be imperative to consider preventative measures to combat this upward trend.

Real Solutions

Stryker understands that Fall Prevention is a complex, multi-faceted task. Our goal is to provide the best in class patient and bed monitoring system while helping to create the safest possible environment for both the patient and caregiver. As Terri states, with Stryker's Secure beds, there are "no excessive chords to worry about because of the integrated 110 volt outlet, easy access to the centrally located brakes, the beds are low [...] also they have stable ingress and egress intermediate siderail positions and Stryker's Chaperone bed alarms."

"These features cover so many possible fall risk opportunities and have had an enormous impact on our awareness of the movement of our patients in bed." - Terri Stuyri

Stryker Features

- BackSmart Intermediate Siderails
- Only-in-class Retractable Bed Frame
- iBed Awareness - Local Bed Status
- One-touch Scale System
- Chaperone Bed Exit System with Zone Control
- Open architecture design
- Centrally Located Brake System

¹. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fallcost.htm)
². www.jointcommission.org/patientsafety/nationalpatientsafetygoals/08