

CONDITION

Multiple Sclerosis
Oedema in lower limbs

DIFFICULTY

Unable to use a single profiling bed
Resulted in sleeping in a chair
Increased Oedema in lower limbs
and risk of pressure injuries

FUNCTIONAL BENEFIT

Reduced oedema in lower limbs
Reduced risk of pressure injuries
Enables independent bed
mobility
Reduced strain on carers

Jenny's story

52-year-old Jenny has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. The diagnosis has progressed and Jenny is no longer able to weight bear and is transferred using a ceiling track hoist and access slings.

Jenny was unable to maintain a functional position and move in her divan bed, as there were no functions to assist with this. She had difficulty positioning pillows to provide appropriate support. This meant that whichever position the carers left Jenny in, was the position that she would remain in, which was uncomfortable and limiting for Jenny.



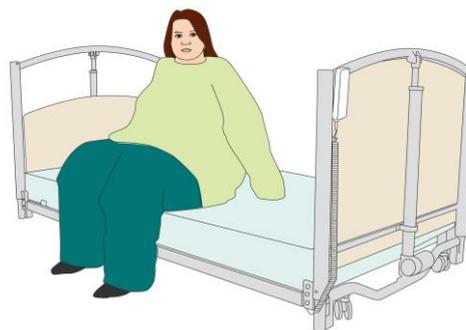
Reasoning

A profiling bed was recommended to provide Jenny with more independence with bed mobility. This would have been particularly beneficial as Jenny is hoisted into bed in the early evening and remains in bed until the morning. However, Jenny declined this recommendation as it was a single profiling bed.

As a result, Jenny began to sleep in her armchair where she was functionally independent in a seated position. However, unfortunately Jenny also experienced several falls from her chair and required frequent paramedic intervention. In addition, being unable to lay in bed was having a detrimental effect on her tissue viability and caused swelling in her lower limbs.

A trial for the Floorbed@1 Plus, an ultra-low nursing bed was requested; at 1050mm wide it provided the additional space Jenny required to feel safe, without compromising the carers when carrying out care. Had a standard wide bed of 1200 mm been put in place, the carers are likely to have had increased difficulty carrying out care due to the need to reach and stretch across the wider bed.

One of the other key benefits to the FloorBed@1 Plus is that Jenny can lower herself to the floor and use the floor surface to enable her to adjust her position.



Conclusion

Jenny is now able to sleep in a bed rather than a chair, which has been of great benefit to reduce the risks of pressure sores and fluid buildup in the legs as well as enable more independent movement. The additional width was required to enable Jenny to feel safe using a profiling bed, without compromising the carers when carrying out care.

Since provision of the FloorBed@1 Plus 6 months ago, there have only been two call outs to the Telecare alarm service. Prior to this there would have been a similar amount each week where she had fallen out of her chair.

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