

Terry's Story



CASE STUDY: Reduced risk of bed falls and injuries

*Debra Corney Consultant Occupational Therapist
BSc Hons, HCPC Registered*

➤ Case Study:

As a result of a brain injury, Terry has poor risk awareness, experiences confusion and has very active movements. When cared for in a bed with bed rails, Terry would push himself against the bed rails with such force that they would break causing him to sustain significant injuries. Due to the risk associated with the bed rails, they were removed and a crash mat was put in place alongside the bed.

Terry would frequently attempt to get out of bed when left alone; unaware of the risks associated and consequently fell up to 5 times per night. Unfortunately, the falls resulted in frequent lacerations to the skin as well as other injuries. Terry also required the assistance of 4 members of staff and a hoist to aid him back in to bed - a very challenging and time consuming task.

➤ Results:

A FloorBed, with a mattress platform height of 7cm from the ground, was put into place for a trial. The carers lower the bed before leaving Terry alone and place a crash mat next to the bed as an additional precaution.

Although Terry has, on occasion, come out of the bed, this has in fact been classified as a roll and has not resulted in any injuries. The carers report that they no longer require a hoist to assist him back to bed. Terry is now safely aided back into bed by two carers using a sliding sheet, significantly reducing the strain on all involved and the time taken.

Due to the high risk of falls from a chair, Terry remains in bed during the day. Since provision of the FloorBed, Terry tends to reposition himself and lean his back against the crash mat placed against the wall alongside the bed. This way, he is able to obtain and maintain a safe seated position independently.

In addition to reducing the risk of bed falls and injuries:

- The FloorBed provides reassurance to the care staff as the risk of bed falls and injuries was significantly reduced.
- The FloorBed provides a safe and appropriate working height for the carers when assisting with care tasks.

➤ **Testimonial:**

"Peace of mind, we don't need to worry as much as we know he is safe. This is much easier for us to manage" – Care home manager