

P1 - CLOUD 9: SAFER TOILETING OF PATIENTS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

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Brief Description of Research or Project: Assisting with toileting is a physically stressful and time consuming process. We have developed a new device, Cloud 9, to improve the toileting process in three ways. The development and testing of the Cloud 9 system followed an iterative process and feedback on the current prototype was solicited through small group sessions with LTC health care providers experienced in providing toileting care to residents. Feedback confirmed that the current wheelchair toileting concept is useful and the innovation eliminates the need for physically-demanding transfers for toileting care for people who utilize a chair during the day. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** There are over 280,000 residents in long term care (LTC) institutions in Canada. Over 65% are incontinent and approximately 80% are dependent on others for mobility, with many requiring the use of mechanical lifting devices for transfers. Assisting with toileting is a physically stressful and time consuming process. We have developed a new device, Cloud 9, to improve the toileting process by providing a more dignified method of toileting; eliminating the need for transfers, thus reducing the stress on the caregiver's back; and facilitating more frequent toileting, which can improve continence. The development and testing of the Cloud 9 system followed an iterative process by a multidisciplinary team. Feedback on the current prototype was solicited through small group sessions with LTC health care providers experienced in providing toileting care to residents. The Cloud 9 system was positively received and the potential for its utility was reinforced. Feedback included: suggested design modifications, such as adjustable armrests, chair width, footrests and overall height; recommendations for applicable populations such as heavy dependent residents or those who require frequent transfers for intermittent catheterization; the benefit of reduced physical effort and job stress; and that cost may be a concern for some LTC facilities. Feedback from LTC providers affirms that the current wheelchair toileting concept used in Cloud 9 is useful, and recommendations will be incorporated into a market-ready prototype produced by an industrial partner for clinical trials and production.. This innovation eliminates the need for physically-demanding transfers for toileting care for people who utilize a chair during the day.