

Penrose Hospital Eliminates 12-Month Transport Chair Theft and Maintenance Costs

Situation

Technology in the healthcare environment continues to evolve as patient conditions become more complex. The wheelchair is one of the most commonly used and recognizable pieces of medical equipment, but has not been significantly redesigned for the hospital setting since its original patent in 1933.¹

As the industry leader in patient mobility, Stryker Medical collaborated with the Michael Graves Design Group to redesign this outdated piece of patient transport equipment. Through collaborative research several challenges surrounding seated transport solutions were identified. Two of the most common challenges were persistent maintenance costs and wheelchair theft. It is estimated that on a national average, 25% of hospital wheelchairs are stolen each year.²

Realizing theft and maintenance costs as a problem in their facility, Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, CO, was the first healthcare facility in the world to implement the Stryker Prime TC® Transport Chair as their standard of care.

Technology

The Stryker Prime TC Transport Chair has several features that were designed to help reduce theft and maintenance costs. The IV pole is non-articulating and permanently attached with a constant height of 73". The transport chair does not fold or collapse, maintaining a constant width of 28.3". The frame is made of powder-coated steel which gives the chair a weight of 140 lbs, making it difficult to lift into a vehicle. All activation points are indicated in yellow and are movable, but not removable, which helps prevent parts from being lost, stolen or misplaced. The Prime TC looks and feels like it should be placed in a hospital setting – visually communicating innovation and exceptional care.

Results

In the 12 months following the implementation of the Prime TC Transport Chair, in conjunction with Penrose Hospital's increased attention to its transport chair fleet, the hospital experienced no transport chair related thefts. Further, they required no maintenance costs related to transport chairs.³

Conclusion

A comprehensive strategic plan, including the implementation of the Stryker Prime TC Transport Chair can result in reduced transport chair theft and decreased transport chair maintenance costs.



Penrose-St. Francis
Health Services

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1 US Patent Number US2095411 A

2 Chalk, Gary. "Wheelchairs: Where would hospitals be without them?" 2012

3 Information provided by Penrose Hospital Administration, Clinical and Marketing Departments, September 2014