

THE RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDING THE FREEDOM BED FOR OUR CLIENT



Our client needed a new bed and positional system. She had a severe brain injury as the result of a near-drowning accident. Her current system, a standard hospital bed with a pressure reduction mattress, was not meeting her needs. Our main concerns were:

- Our client was not tolerating a flat position because of significant respiratory distress. She had loud breathing and difficulty breathing through the night which we felt was related to gastro-esophageal reflux and difficulty managing oral secretions.
- Our clients respiratory distress and discomfort, in turn, resulted in a significant increase in her already high muscle tone. By morning she frequently needed more medication to reduce her muscle tone.
- Efforts to raise the head of the bed had caused sliding. Efforts to position her in a side-lying position had not worked due to her high muscle tone. She was never found in the same position she was left and at times she was sideways in bed.
- Because she was uncomfortable and in distress her caregiver was also up frequently through the night.

There had been several attempts to improve our clients bed positioning. For this client the goals that we wanted to achieve were:

- To position her with head elevated to reduce Gastro-esophageal reflux and to help her manage her oral secretions.
- To minimize sliding down the bed.
- To provide pressure relief.
- To promote good respiratory health and to promote clearing of the upper respiratory secretions.
- To reduce spasticity/abnormal tone.
- To provide a good nights sleep.
- To provide comfort
- To reduce the need for care giving during the night.

We considered the Freedom bed with the reverse trendelenburg feature as one of our options. We achieved all the above mentioned goals with the Freedom bed and the following was reported by her caregivers:

- The Freedom bed appeared to improve our clients respiratory health. When she trialed the Freedom bed for the first time at night her chest was congested and the caregivers reported that they were concerned that she would need another hospitalization for pneumonia. Through the night she coughed more and was able to clear the secretions. After a few days her chest was reported to be relatively clear. Her noisy/gurgly breathing stopped.
- Sliding down the bed was minimized. Her position in the 12 degrees (maximum) reverse trendelenburg could be maintained.

- The caregivers reported that her muscle tone was significantly reduced. They felt that the client was more relaxed and easier to care for in the morning.
- The caregiver reported that the client slept through the night. She did not wake her normal 2 times.
- The caregivers were able to sleep too. There was no need for caregivers to be up through the night.

We recommended this bed for our client. She is more content sleeping in the Freedom bed. She says she loves it.

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Occupational Therapist / Physiotherapist

Completed for Freedom Bed From Probed Medical Technologies Inc.
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