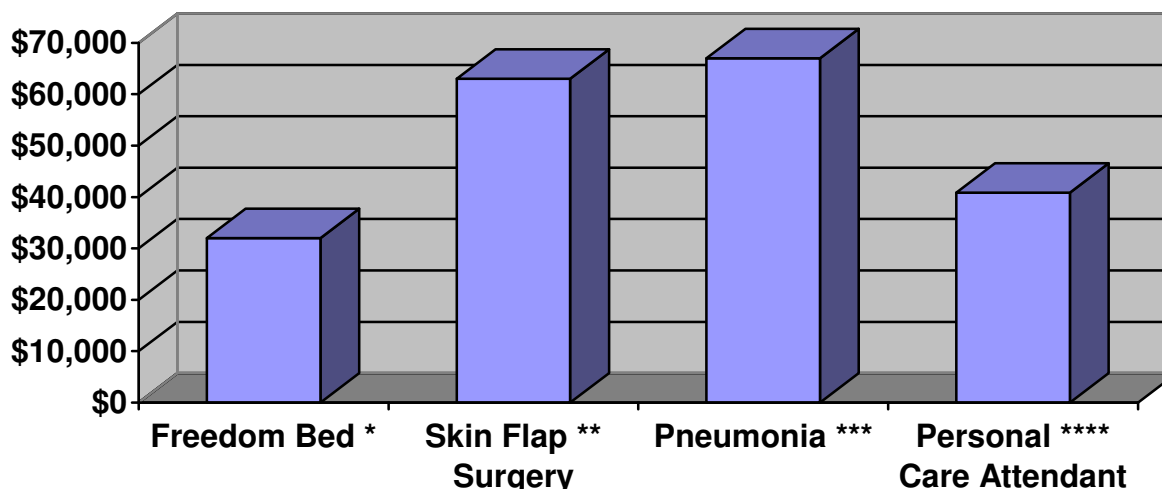


THE FREEDOM BED™ - COMPARATIVE COSTS



* **The Freedom Bed™** – A programmable, Lateral Rotation Therapy Bed – this approximate \$32,000 expense is **one-time**, substantially reducing and/or eliminating the complications of immobility, such as pressure ulcers and respiratory infections. Use of this product may also reduce and/or eliminate the need for a night-time Personal Care Attendant.

** **Stage IV Pressure Ulcer** - Skin flap surgery is necessary in cases of Stage IV pressure ulcers. When the skin has broken down to this level, the chances of recurrence are statistically probable. The average cost of muscle flap surgery is \$63,000 not including time lost from missing work or school. (Source – Pressure Ulcers: Interdisciplinary Approach Across the Continuum (1999) by C. S. Mathewson, RN, M. Nemeth, PT, & H. Murray, MD. In Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation. A Thomas Land Publication, volume 6, summer 2000).

*** **Pneumonia** - The presence of any infectious complication, pneumonia for example, can result in re-admission and increased length of stay and charges per patient; which can be as high as \$45,000 to \$67,000 per incident. (Source – The Impact of Complications on the Resource Utilization, Hospital Charges, and Outcome in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, by Rutherford E, Rutledge R, Fakhry S, et al: a study of 1,438 patients. Crit Care Med. 1990: 18:S196).

**** **Personal Care Attendant** - “Annual” costs are approximately \$40,880 based on an 8-hour night shift at \$14 per hour (2002 numbers). Hourly rates differ from state-to-state, and could be higher if skilled nursing care is warranted.

Source: Irmo Marini, Ph.D., CRC, CLCP of *Marini & Associates*