



Moving Health Forward



**University Hospital  
Southampton**

**NHS Foundation Trust**

# Enabling timely single-handed care acute discharge using WendyLett Bed Management Systems

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## Background

A 75 year old who lady lives alone, has a QDSx2 package of care already in place and was admitted to UHS with new confusion, high temperature and shortness of breath. She was treated for Hypokalaemia, Normocytic Anaemia, Sepsis (pressure ulcers) and Streptococcus bacteraemia.

The patient had previous right distal femoral fractures (surgical ORIF) from May 2021 and an extensive past medical history. Currently, she had right lower leg ulcers and unstageable pressure ulcers to the heels, moisture associated skin damage on buttocks and some trauma on back. It was eventually decided that the patient was palliative due to Infective Carditis.

- Weight: 120kg
- Height: 169cm

## In hospital

- Nursing staff turning the patient with assistance of 5 due to the patients complex positional needs (i.e. right leg fixed in 90 degree flexion and hip internally rotated).
- Difficulty turning to right side due to right leg positioning.
- Difficulty turning to left side due to pain in right leg when lifted off the bed.

## Intervention

- Bed mobility assessment from ward Occupational Therapist and Single Handed Care trained Occupational Therapist
- With use of WendyLett's, HandiWedge and positioning pillows, the patient was able to be rolled with the assistance of 2. The patient already had WendyLett's at home so only a HandiWedge was ordered, providing standardisation of equipment.
- A Moving and handling risk assessment written up and sent to the carers, which included pictures of optimum positioning.

## Impact on patient

- The patient was able to return home with her current QDSx2 POC, as per her wishes.
- If the patient had continued to require assistance of 5 with positioning, she would have had to be discharged to a Nursing Home. The patient wished to return home, as she was now palliative, and stay at home until end of her life.

## Outcome

The standardisation across both acute and community settings allowed for a safe discharge from hospital with appropriate care package and equipment in place, in a timely manner.

Following accredited training from a national training provider and “In Bed Management” Ethos Education training, Acute Occupational Therapists and carers were able to identify equipment solutions required and move the patient on the low-friction WendyLett sliding sheets. The OT team were able to comprehensively and quickly write a moving and handling risk assessment to include positioning requirements when using a WendyLett in bed management system, HandiWedge and positioning cushions that was centred to the patient’s needs. Latest statistics suggest that only 40% of patients are able to leave hospital were ready to (July 2022)<sup>1</sup> – the package of measures implemented encouraged NHS to work closely with social care services to ensure that people receive the care and support they need as quickly as possible in order to leave hospital safely and stay well in their homes and communities. This package of care delivered exactly that, allowing the patient to be discharged from hospital and into the comfort and safety of her own home – directly reducing hospital bed occupancy and ensuring a patient led approach.

## Products



WendyLett base sheet with elasticated corners



WendyLett4Way draw sheet



HandiWedge



Lejerelet Positioning Cushions

## References

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2022/08/nhs-sets-out-package-of-measures-to-boost-capacity-ahead-of-winter/>



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