

## **Journey to Safe Patient Handling**

### **Mercy Health and ArjoHuntleigh Partnership**

#### **Lorain, Ohio**

In August of 2013, in support of Mercy Health's safe patient handling and mobility initiative LIFT (Living Injury Free Together), Mercy Health Lorain partnered with ArjoHuntleigh / Diligent Services for a complete reboot and re-launch of safe patient handling and mobility through the use of positioning and lift equipment. Prior to this partnership, it was identified that Mercy Health Lorain was losing approximately \$440K annually due to light duty restrictions related to patient mobility related injuries. Mercy Health Lorain was incurring over 20-plus employee injuries related to patient handling per year.

#### **The goals of this partnership were to:**

- Reduce employee injury related costs by 30%
- Reduce employee recordable injuries by 60% with a program baseline of 27 to a goal of 7 annually (identified as a reduction of OSHA-300 Recordable Injuries)
- Educate and provide training for 67 Transfer Coaches/Super users.
- Educate and provide training for over 1000 clinical staff members
- Improve customer service and provide the highest level of clinical quality through the implementation of the LIFT program.

#### **Outcomes since Go Live February 2014**

- On-site maintenance staff training in all pieces of equipment since onset to minimize cost of outsourcing for equipment repairs
- Complete change in staff culture with less staff resistance and more equipment use
- Overhead lifts provided to all critical care rooms to facilitate bed mobility with ventilated and non-mobile patients.
- Continued monthly LIFT classes for all new hires and refresher courses for staff
- Accountability for non-use of equipment as outlined in revised policy
- Partnership with core champion and employee health to track, record, and discipline employee injuries related to mobility. All injuries to date have been employees choosing to not use LIFT devices
- Reduction from 20+ injuries in 2013, to 4 patient related injuries in 2014 and 1 recordable patient related injury YTD 2015 exceeding all expectations with cost savings of \$200K