

# Developing a Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) approach to 24 hour Posture Management on an Acute Medical Ward – increasing quality of care and building clinician skill

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## Identify The Issue

New Zealand’s ageing population have extended in-patient length of stay with complex chronic health conditions.  
During admissions these patients are commonly assessed by the wider MDT and require postural support.

Each MDT professional brings a unique focus to patient care – communication and collaboration is required to ensure the clients care needs are the common goal.

Posture management programmes:  
Address the clients position in bed, chair, wheelchair, commode, and whilst standing  
Focus on promoting function  
Prevent secondary complications i.e. pressure areas, infections, contractures and pain.

## Sharing And Gaining Knowledge

Part One: Communication between professionals to share skill sets:

Occupational Therapist – seating and positioning, positioning aides, splinting, personal care assessments

Physiotherapist – advanced musculoskeletal knowledge, mobility and transfers, respiratory assessment

Speech Language Therapist – swallowing assessment / rehabilitation, communication assessments

Dietician – nutritional assessment (both oral and enteral)

Nursing staff – physical, social and personal care assessments, nursing knowledge and delivery of care during in-patient event.


Part Two: In-service training for MDT to up skill in use of positioning aides and formatting posture management programmes

1-1 Coaching with Nursing staff and Occupational Therapist in positioning techniques and use of equipment

## Implementing New Skills

A 24hr plan to optimize the patients recovery through structured care including day to day care needs, therapy, visiting, rest periods.

Visual aides



Personalised posture charts created for complex patients in bed and chair. Displayed above patients bed (with consent).

## Feedback From Staff

“Through the sharing of therapist’s Knowledge, MDT members have been up-skilled in the most evidence based and practical methods of positioning patients and delivering cares.”  
T. Wilkinson (Charge Nurse)

“This experience has broadened my understanding of how the members of the MDT contribute to patient care” – S. Wilson NZROT

Outcome

Improved continuity of care for complex patients throughout their stay on Wainamu Ward.

Collaborative team working

Enhanced patient care within existing resources by implementing current evidence based practice and team work.

