



LWC + HILL-ROM

REDESIGNING THE HOSPITAL GOWN



Progressive Recovery

Stage 1 - Low Mobility
"Works with Mattress Pad to reduce Friction and Shear"

Stage 2 - Medium Mobility
"Easy Open & Closure"

Stage 3 - High Mobility
"Transition to Physical Therapy"

Annual **cost** per hospital for treating facility-acquired **pressure ulcers** ranges from **\$400,000 to \$700,000**.
-- Client Data



Increasing **patient dignity** while providing **cost effective, quality care** with the overall goal to **reduce the risk of bedsores** (pressure ulcers).
-- Project Goal

Patient Wear: A New System for Patient Clothing in Health Care Environments

o p p o r t u n i t y s p a c e

Social Factors

Staying in a hospital is already a serious, emotionally draining experience.

Patients' view the current hospital gown with mixed emotions. It is unisex, provides little coverage, and the prints and colors are representative of men's boxer shorts from the 1920's.

One Size Fits No One. Current gown design does not enhance Patient Dignity.

13.4% of hospital patients — 900,000 people — will develop a pressure ulcer each year.

60,000 of those patients will die from complications due to facility-acquired pressure ulcers ... one of the top 3 in-hospital errors that lead to patient deaths.

— Client Data

Stage V Pressure Ulcer



Client Image

Economical Factors

The timing for this research project is appropriately aligned with the latest Medicare announcement. **Pressure ulcers** are listed amongst eight preventable conditions for which **Medicare** will **not reimburse hospitals** after October 1, 2008.

Annual direct cost per hospital for treating facility-acquired pressure ulcers ranges from \$400,000 to \$700,000 per year.

— Client Data

Technological Factors

Construction and material of gown could contribute to worsening skin conditions.

Patient gowns and linens can:

- Create pressure points
- Trap moisture
- Elevate temperature
- Introduce friction and shear

Increasing trend:

Antimicrobial textiles

New closure materials

Moisture absorption/wicking materials



*The goal of the project is to explore the fundamental **redesign** of patient gowns and the **mattress cover**, with the overall goal to **reduce the risk of pressure ulcers**.*

Scope of Resources

Interdisciplinary Student Teams

Industrial Design
Fashion Design
Product Development
Business (Finance/Marketing)
Bio-Medical Engineering

Interdisciplinary Faculty Team

Medical Staff Support

Nursing Consultants
Advanced Wound Care Manager

Concept Evaluation & Refinement

PhD Nursing Candidates

Universal Design Expert

Materials Science Expert

Concept Goals: Patient - Nurse Experience



PhD Nursing Candidates evaluate initial concepts.



Current gown design dates back to the 1925

Braden Scale used to assess Pressure Ulcer Risk

The anatomical sites for pressure ulcers are the Sacrum, Ischium, Trochanter and Heel.

Braden Scale Categories

- Sensory Perception
- Moisture
- Activity
- Mobility
- Nutrition
- Friction and Shear

Based on the identified risk factors the team decided to evaluate fabric samples on the following tests to the right. >>

Final Fabric Test Results

- Polyester based materials are good at moisture wicking, but may be high shear.
- Bamboo is very good at water absorption.
- Nylon is low shear.
- Weave and construction of materials play as much of a role in moisture control and shear as the material itself. This is an area of further investigation.

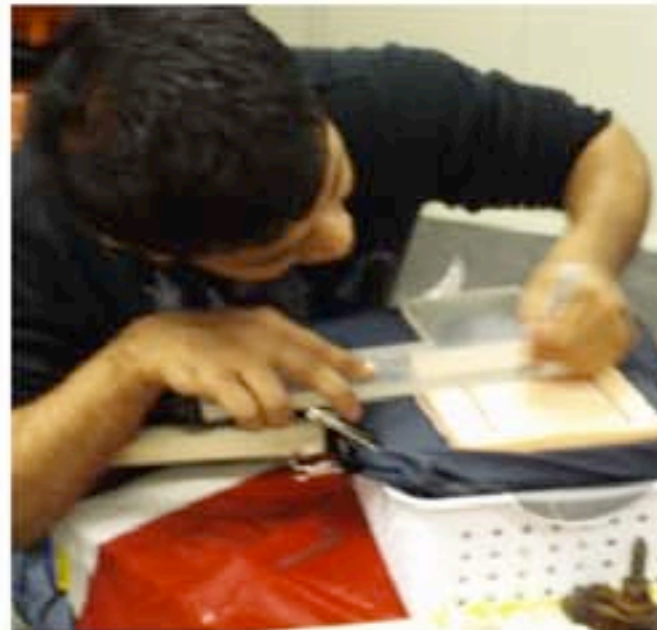
Demographic Risk Factors

Top 5 Factors

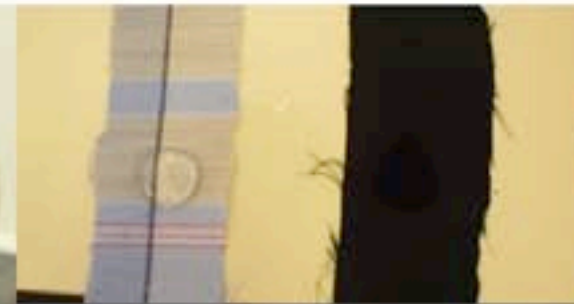
1. Over age 60
2. Diabetes
3. Smoking
4. Obesity (MBI>30)
5. Skinny (MBI<18.5)

Mechanical Risk Factors

- Moisture Accumulation
- Increased Temperatures
- Shear Force on the Skin
- Excessive Pressure on the Skin



Engineering Student preparing Test



Absorption



Wicking



Evaporation



Shear

Enhancing the Outcome for Patients and their Caregivers



Meet Judy

- 68 years old
- Happily married with two children
- Active**, enjoys running 10K races
- Retired business professional
- Healthy aside from **chronic knee problems**

Judy has developed **osteoarthritis** of the knee due to many years of wearing high heels and running. Lately she has been experiencing an increasing amount

of pain and has elected to have a total **knee replacement** to take care of the problem. Currently she is investigating the best possible hospital experience.

Stage 1 - Low Mobility

- 01 As Judy gets ready for surgery, she puts on the OPEN-FIT backless gown. After surgery, Judy will be immobile for 1-2 hours. A pressure ulcer can form within 2 hours. The backless gown, paired with the GRAB-IT antimicrobial contact sheet and a mattress that reduces interface pressure while controlling microclimate is the key to avoid bed sores.

Stage 2 - Medium Mobility

- 01 Since Judy will be in the hospital for several days after surgery, she will change into a JUMP-FIT gown to promote movement and dignity. When she feels cold the nurse provides WARM-FIT arm and leg warmers.
- 02 Judy will be encouraged to begin walking short distances with assistance (walker and caregiver). A physical therapist will start Judy on a recovery routine in bed.

Stage 3 - High Mobility

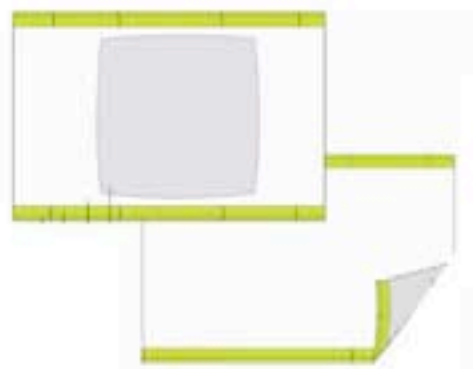
- 01 Judy is progressively recovering. After rehabilitation allows her to walk on her own again she is now at home wearing the FLEX-FIT separates (shirt and pants).
- 02 The physical therapy program will continue for a few weeks to ensure a full recovery.

GRAB-IT

[Contact/Transfer Sheet]

Features

- Comfortable Top Layer
- Moisture Wicking SeaCell
- Rip-stop Nylon Backing
- Removable Incontinence Pad
- Tube Handling
- Grip Edging
- One Piece



"We are always being taught good body mechanics."

Nursing consultant

Concept Features

- Simple Silhouette
- Seamless Design
- Overlap Access
- Integrated Closures
- One Piece Construction
- Micro Adjustable Fit
- Systematic Sizing (color coded closures)



Immobile

Partially Mobile

Partially/Fully Mobile

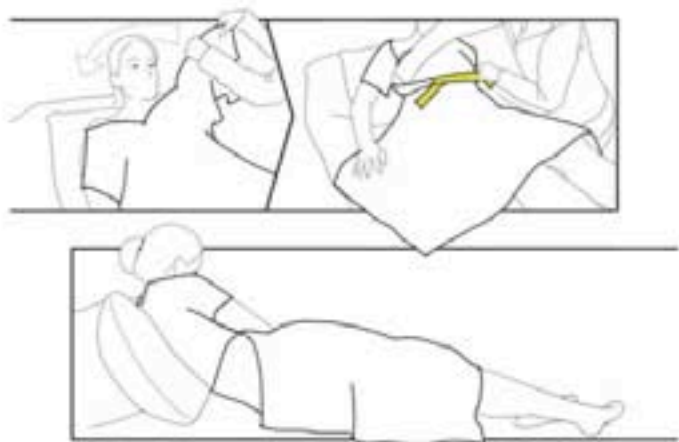


OPEN-FIT

[Backless Gown]

Features

- Skin to Sheet Contact
- Drape Coverage
- Lateral Change
- Tear Away Sleeve
- Dignified Shrug Back

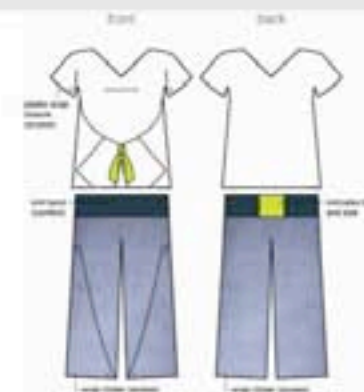
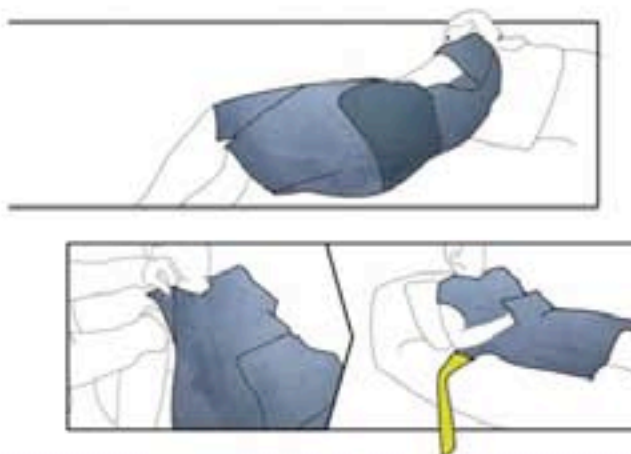


JUMP-FIT & STICK-FIT

[Wrap Gown]

Features

- Wrap Closure
- Tie Comfort
- Protection Patch
- Integrated Pocket
- Soft Construction
- Seamless Magnet Closure



FLEX-FIT

[Active, Separates]

Features

- Intuitive
- Flexible Mobility
- Open Access
- Dignified Coverage
- Seamless Comfort
- Lifestyle Relevant



**Nurse
Quotes**

“ Let the mattress be the mattress. ”

“ Tangled closures means a gown must be cut and then thrown away which renders them useless. ”

“ Our goal is to get the patient mobile and back into their civilian clothes as quickly as possible. ”

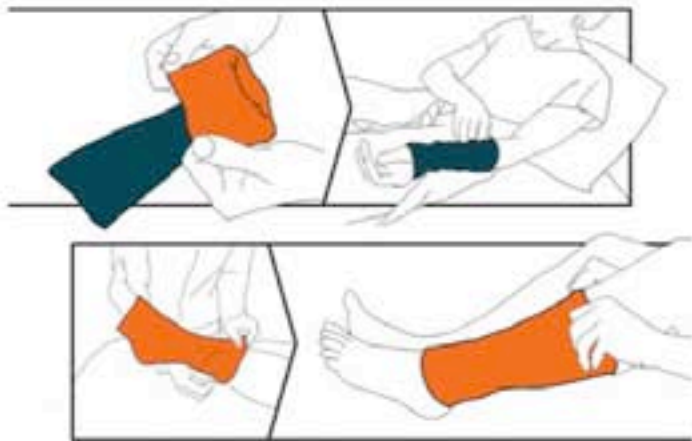
Based on compensational behaviors found during research.

WARM-FITS

[Arm + Leg Accessories]

Features

- Reversible
- Color Therapy
- One Size Fits All
- Enables Access
- Warmth
- Choice

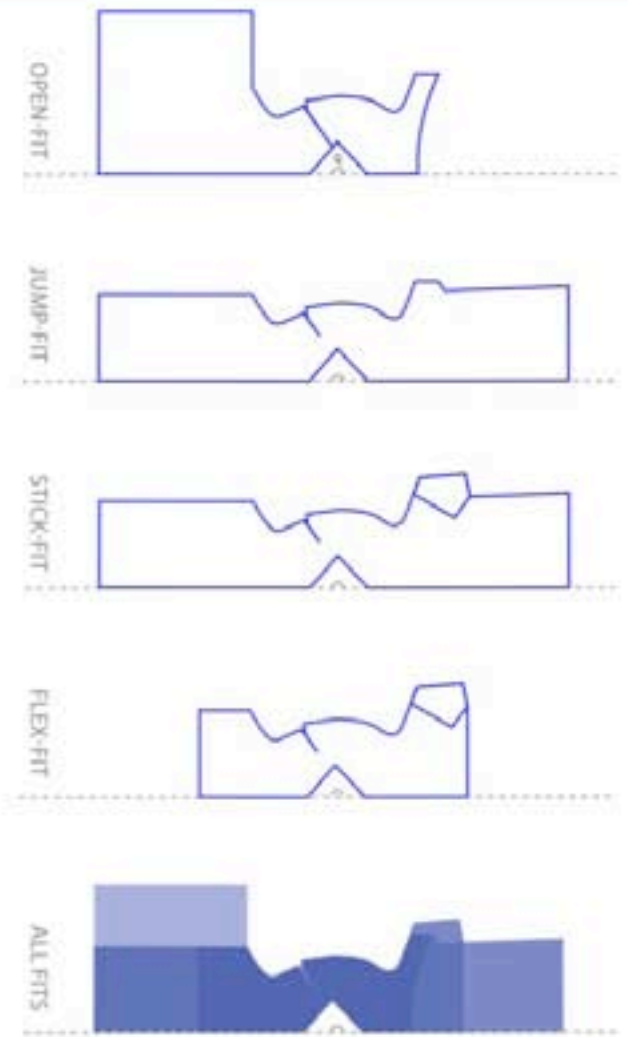
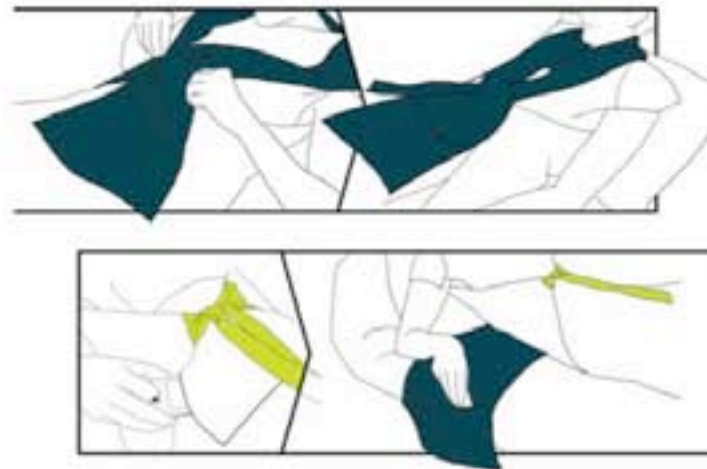


STASH-IT

[Scarf Accessories]

Features

- Reversible
- Storage
- Warmth
- Choice



" We often cut off long socks to give to patients for warmth and comfort. "

" We are always looking for ways to stash things. Patients expect the same things they have at home... phone, ipod, blackberry... "

The use of similar patterns saves cost during manufacturing.



THANK YOU.

