



## A GUIDE TO CORRECT STATIC CUSHION USE

**Harvest Healthcare Ltd** recommends that cushions should be used and maintained in accordance with the following:

### 1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Check that the safe working load of the Cushion is suitable for the intended user. **Do not exceed the safe working load.** Make sure the size of the cushion is correct for the patient.

Ensure that the Risk Factor is suitable for the intended user. **To help prevent pressure damage it is important that patients reposition themselves or are not seated for extensive periods of time.**

Cushions are delivered in plastic covers for protection; these covers must be removed before use.

Avoid using any additional covers/padding between the patient and the support surface, as this may affect its pressure reducing qualities.

### 2. CUSHION DAMAGE PREVENTION

#### General Use

Take care not to puncture the cover as this will allow fluid ingress to contaminate the foam core. To prevent the cover from being punctured and/or damaged:-

- Do not place sharp objects such as hypodermic needles, scalpels, etc, on the Cushion,
- Avoid wearing large jewellery items i.e. rings with large stones which may rip the cover.
- Take extra care when using medical equipment such as monitors, drip stands, side rails, transfer boards etc.

## Moving, Handling and Storage

Where possible, Cushions should be stacked flat. **Do not carry Cushions by the cover.**

### 3. CUSHION CLEANING AND CARE

Cushions are fully encased in a protective waterproof, multi-stretch PU cover to prevent fluid ingress from damaging the foam core. **The Cushion cover should be cleaned regularly in accordance with your organisations' disinfection protocol.**

Further information is available from Harvest Healthcare Ltd on request.

### 4. CUSHION INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Cushions should be checked regularly to ensure they remain 'fit for purpose', clinically effective and pose no risk of infection to either the patient or the carer.

Harvest Healthcare Ltd recommend that a thorough inspection of both the interior (foamcore) and exterior (cover) of the Cushion is carried out weekly, or each time a new patient is placed on the cushion. Visual checks should be carried out daily to identify any significant signs of damage or infection risk.

If any signs of contamination are identified on the cover, the cushion should be withdrawn from use immediately and the cover replaced. If the foam and/or the cover are showing signs of contamination or excessive wear the cushion should be removed from use immediately and the entire replaced. **Replacements are available from Harvest Healthcare Ltd.**

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