

Presenting Author: Andrea Olmos, MD
Institution: University of California San Francisco
Address: 505 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134
Email: Andrea.Olmos@ucsf.edu

Contributing Authors:

2. Gail Lee, University of California San Francisco
3. Lujain Al-Saleh, University of California San Francisco
4. Seema Gandhi, MD, University of California San Francisco

Abstract Title:

Single-use Air-assisted Lateral Transfer Devices: Are they being put to good use and can we improve upon sustainable practice?

Abstract Body:

Operating rooms produce one-third of the waste generated by the healthcare industry, and this is largely attributable to single-use devices. In 2015 UCSF introduced one such device, the HoverMatt, to reduce patient handling injuries and mandated that all patients receive HoverMatts following surgery. Given the cost and waste associated with purchase and disposal of HoverMatts, UCSF established a reprocessing program to recycle used HoverMatts. We conducted an observational study to assess whether these devices were being used and reprocessed appropriately. From August 22-September 30, 2016 496 HoverMatts were distributed to surgical patients. Of the 65 HoverMatts distributed preoperatively, 28 were discarded upon entering the operating room and only 13 were used to transfer patients from the gurney to the operating table. 426 HoverMatts were distributed immediately following surgery, but only 14 were used to transfer patients from the operating table to the recovery gurney. Of the 368 Hovermatts observed during floor transfers, 123 were not reprocessed. At our institution distributed HoverMatts often go unused and are not reprocessed, contributing to increasing healthcare costs and occupying limited landfill space. These results suggest the need for staff education on safe patient handling and easily accessible reprocessing bins, particularly in the operating rooms.