

St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center



Rochelle Kelly Wristen
Director, Marketing & Communications
1008 Minnequa Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004
Phone: (719) 557-3814
rochellekellywristen@centura.org

March 3, 2015

New Study Confirms Significant Reduction of Pressure Ulcers from Use of DermaTherapy® Bed Linens and Gowns at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center

*Smooth, antimicrobial fabric results in reduced pressure ulcers
and length of hospital patient stay*

Pueblo, CO --- Today, St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center CEO, Brian Moore, announced results from a clinical trial completed recently evaluating DermaTherapy® technology at the hospital and its impact on improving patient care.

Committed to providing innovative, unparalleled resources and technologies for patients, St. Mary-Corwin is the first acute care facility west of the Mississippi River to fully convert to DermaTherapy® products. DermaTherapy® products used at the hospital include bed linens (fitted and flat sheets, pillow cases and bed pads) and gowns. St. Mary-Corwin introduced DermaTherapy® technology for all patients admitted to the hospital two years ago.

Mike Cafasso, vice president of operations at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center, commissioned the study after learning about the revolutionary linen technology at an Association of Managers of Innovation (AMI) conference in the fall of 2012, where DermaTherapy® was being discussed. The control phase of the study ran for four months prior to implementing the new technology. The new products were introduced in April 2013. The DermaTherapy® phase of the study covered a nine-month period. A total of 3,179 patients were included in the study.

“We realized a 57% reduction of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, also known as bed sores, as well as a modest reduction in length of stay in the hospital during the DermaTherapy study. We have continued to sustain those gains,” said Cafasso.

The study demonstrated a significant reduction of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, improved the treatment of existing wounds, reduced bioburden and air contaminants, and raised standards of care—all while improving patient comfort.

St. Mary-Corwin patient, Vickie Jagger, would agree. “No one wants to be in the hospital. When they put the gown on me after surgery and I was lying on those sheets it was so nice. It made that night a thousand times better.”

DermaTherapy® is a synthetic silk-like fabric system of antimicrobial bed linens and patient apparel which are cleaner, drier and smoother than conventional cotton textiles. This in turn facilitates the ease of movement in bed. The smooth fabric prevents the skin from sticking to it and prevents shear injuries.

(cont.)

Cafasso notes it may be difficult for hospital administrators to recognize the cost savings available from something as simple as sheets. However, the recently released 2014 *International Guideline for the Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers* by the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance organizations support the DermaTherapy® study's findings, recommending the use of silk-like fabrics—specifically like that of DermaTherapy®— to reduce shear and friction.

DermaTherapy® products are environmentally friendly, 37% lighter in weight, and have a service life that is dramatically longer than traditional hospital bedding and gowns. In addition, they clean easier and are more resistant to stains.

DermaTherapy® was originally developed by Greensboro, North Carolina-based textile company Precision Fabrics Group (PFG) Inc., in conjunction with Standard Textile Co. Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, to help people with skin conditions such as eczema and psoriasis.

###

About St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center

St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center is nationally recognized for its award-winning programs in women's services, orthopedics, cancer, cardiology, stroke, trauma and emergency services. St. Mary-Corwin's expert team of physicians, nurses and caregivers provide compassionate, quality patient care, with access to the latest in medical technology. St. Mary-Corwin is part of Centura Health, the region's largest health care network. For more information on St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center, visit stmarycorwin.org or follow on Twitter @StMaryCorwin and facebook.com/StMaryCorwin.