Low Air Loss Mattress

A low air loss bed consists of a mattress with a series of connected air-filled pillows with microscopic holes that allow air to escape. The amount of pressure in each pillow is controlled and can be changed to provide maximum pressure reduction for the individual patient.

A low air loss mattress is used to reduce or relieve pressure that the weight of your body, and especially your bones, exert on your skin as it presses against the surface of a bed. By relieving or reducing this pressure, existing pressure ulcers can heal and the chance that new pressure ulcers will develop can be reduced.

**Important to note:** Even if a specialty bed is being used, the patient still needs to be repositioned at least every two hours.

**Note about controlling moisture:** If you have an incontinence issue, these beds help inact skin “dry”, which keeps the skin around the pressure ulcer from breaking down and prevents the development of additional pressure ulcers. When lying on these types of support surfaces, it’s important not to wear incontinence briefs (because they block the airflow to the skin). Instead, follow the manufacturer’s instructions for using linen and underpads.

**Installation**

1. Remove existing mattress from hospital/homecare bed frame and store.
2. Place the low air loss mattress replacement on the bed frame with the hose end at the foot section of the bed frame. Verify mattress anchor straps are attached to bed frame securely. Test all bed frame functions to verify no interference. Do not place anything on the power unit. Route power cord underneath bed frame and verify freedom from hazard. Connect the air hoses from the support surface to the power unit. Plug the power unit into a Medway outlet.
3. After installation and initial inflation is complete, place patient onto the mattress. Center patient on mattress to avoid accidental falls, etc.
4. Turn power on by flipping switch on the control panel of the power unit.
5. Set patient weight. Patient weight knob is a good reference, but some times caregivers will need to alter weight setting to get optimal comfort setting for patients. If patient feels bed is too firm/soft, lower or increase weight setting in small increments and allow system to stabilize before evaluating. Please note that the pressure setting may need to be increased for patients that are in the head up or articulated position.

**Patient falls**

Failure to use bed rails in raised position could lead to accidental patient falls. Air mattresses have soft edges that may collapse when patients roll to that edge.

**Risk of electric shock**

DO NOT open back cover. This device is NOT user serviceable. This device should only be opened by qualified personnel.

**Electrical**

Do not insert items into any opening of the power unit. This could short internal components, which could cause fire or electrical shock. This product is NOT AP/APG protected. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL ONLY.
6. Caregivers should always perform a “hand check” to ensure the patients are not bottoming out. A “hand check” should be performed when the patient is on the support surface by placing a hand below the air cells beneath the pelvic area of the patient. Ensure that there is an adequate amount of air supporting the patient, so they are not bottoming out.

Patient transfers in and out of bed
Always secure bed before patient transfer. If available, engage locks on the bed casters before transferring patient. Turning up the comfort dial to the maximum setting to firm the system will also assist in making transfers easier.

Bed linens
This device incorporates a waterproof cover that is moisture vapor permeable; therefore it is recommended to limit bed linens to one sheet in order to maximize the system’s performance. NOTE: Only “breathable” incontinent pads are recommended for use with this device. When using side rails and/or assiste devices, use a mattress thick enough and wide enough so that the gap between the top of the mattress and the bottom of the side rails and the gap between the side of the mattress and the side rails is small enough to prevent a patient from getting his or her head or neck between the mattress and the side rail. Failure to do so could result in serious patient injury or death.

Routine cleaning while in use by a single patient
Routine cleaning of the air mattress can be done at bedside by cleaning with mild detergent or soap and water followed by drying with a clean dry cloth. Cover can be easily removed and laundered in warm water (113°F/45°C) with mild detergent. Tumble dry on lowest setting or hang dry when possible.