



Preventing Feeding Tube Complications in Nursing Home Residents: Leveraging Joerns Comfort Pauses and Connexio Technology

A White Paper on Reducing Avoidable Hospital Admissions Through Clinical Innovation

Abstract: Feeding tube complications are a major contributor to potentially avoidable hospital admissions among nursing home residents with severe functional impairment or terminal illness. This white paper outlines how the combined use of Joerns Comfort Pauses and Connexio's real-time monitoring technology can address these challenges, improve resident outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs.



BACKGROUND

- Population Studied: 6,011 severely impaired and 5,810 terminally ill nursing home residents.
- Emergency Department (ED) Visits: 18% of severely impaired (approx. 1,082) and 8% of terminally ill residents had at least one ED visit.
- Potentially Avoidable Visits: 70–80% of ED visits were considered potentially avoidable (Ouslander, 2025).

The most common cause of these avoidable ED visits in the severely impaired group was feeding tube complications, with an estimated 227–303 of these visits attributable to such issues.

THE PROBLEM:

FEEDING TUBE COMPLICATIONS

Hospital admissions from feeding tube complications, especially among vulnerable nursing home populations, are often preventable. According to the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA), gastronomy tube issues are a leading driver of these events. A critical risk factor is improper head-of-bed (HOB) elevation during enteral feeding, which can lead to aspiration and other adverse outcomes.



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INNOVATION IN PRACTICE: JOERNS COMFORT PAUSES & CONNEXIO INTEGRATION

Joerns Comfort Pauses provide preset HOB elevations (30° and 45°), supporting best practices for enteral feeding safety. When integrated with Connexio's monitoring platform, care staff receive immediate alerts if the bed deviates from the prescribed angle, ensuring adherence to feeding protocols.



BENEFITS OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH



REDUCED RISK OF COMPLICATIONS:
MAINTAINS OPTIMAL HOB ELEVATION TO PREVENT
ASPIRATION AND TUBE DISLODGEEMENT.



CLINICAL COMPLIANCE:
EMPOWERS CAREGIVERS TO FOLLOW EVIDENCE-
BASED PROTOCOLS WITH CONFIDENCE.



REAL-TIME MONITORING:
DELIVERS ACTIONABLE ALERTS, SUPPORTING TIMELY
INTERVENTIONS AND CONTINUOUS VIGILANCE.



COST CONTAINMENT:
REDUCES THE VOLUME OF AVOIDABLE HOSPITAL
ADMISSIONS, CONTAINING HEALTHCARE COSTS.



CONCLUSION

Adopting Joerns Comfort Pauses in tandem with Connexio monitoring represents a crucial advancement in care for nursing home residents. By systematically minimizing a leading source of preventable harm – feeding tube complications, facilities can improve resident outcomes, enhance quality of life, and achieve meaningful reductions in unnecessary hospital utilization.

For more information about Connexio, and its benefits, please contact Joerns Healthcare or visit our website.

WORKS CITED

Ouslander, J. (2025). Diagnoses Associated With Hospitalization of Nursing Home Residents With Severe Functional Impairment and Terminal Illness. Journal of the American Medical Directors Association.

Diagnoses Associated With Hospitalization of Nursing Home Residents With Severe Functional Impairment and Terminal Illness - Journal of the American Medical Directors Association

ABOUT JOERNS HEALTHCARE

Joerns Healthcare provides healthcare technology and related services for patient care across the post-acute continuum. It is dedicated to simplifying this process by providing practitioners with the products, technology and data they need, allowing them to concentrate on patient care. Joerns also offers over 130 years of experience and a national service footprint that help clinicians navigate the complexities of modern accountable care while optimizing patient outcomes and cost.



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