When choosing a Behavioral Health mattress

Comfortex® Closed System mattresses are recognized by the ***Behavioral Health Facilities Design Guide***

Impervious Barrier Protection

Look For

Impervious Stratos® Nylon top, Reinforced Vinyl bottom and double stitched seams. Provides enhanced strength for added security. The materials and construction maximize safety and durability. Impervious cover fabric should go far beyond moisture resistant or even waterproof. A barrier fabric will stop all forms of contaminants, including evaporating blood, urine and perspiration vapors. Reinforced Vinyl bottom cover and double stitched seams.

Look Out For

Mattress vendors using words like stretchable or breathable to describe their covers. Stretch fabrics and breathable fabrics, have high MVT ratings and allow the vaporized, evaporating moisture (blood, urine and perspiration) to be inhaled thru the fabric and into the mattress, where it hides…and accumulates. Words like "2-way & 4-way stretch" and "breathable", may be effective claims to trigger a mattress purchase, but a healthcare surface is frequently exposed to unspeakable contaminants and no patient should have to rest atop the inhaled blood, urine and perspiration of a previous patient…or the previous thousand patients.

Resiliency vs Passivity

Look For

A mattress that has the resiliency to gently conform around a patients' subtle pressure points and then instantly re-adjust with each and every movement. A resilient surface feels good when rest begins and supports that good feeling throughout the patients' stay. Bounce, resiliency felt great when we were kids jumping on a bed and that responsiveness in a mattress' cushioning material still feels good…especially when the kid is 86.

Look Out For

Foam or chambers that gradually surrender beneath pressure points and body contours, but fail to follow movements or changes in position. We naturally shift or reposition every few minutes. Delays in the mattress or cushions response also delay rest and comfortable support. Look out for mattresses that need sensors and mechanical pumps to follow your patients' unique shape, weight and movements. Look out for cushions that mold around body contours, but must re-expand and re-mold with each patient movement. Compromised patients may find repositioning on a non-resilient surface a bit challenging.

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Balancing Immersion

Look For

Softness should be at the top of the mattress with support and firmness gradually increasing with each underlying layer. The human form is built with pressure tolerant and pressure sensitive areas. Look for a hospital mattress that surrenders beneath the pressure sensitive areas, with enhanced support beneath the areas where support is better tolerated. Off-loading pressure away from the persons' most at-risk, pressure sensitive areas help to ensure greater comfort and in turn help guard against capillary occlusion and pressure wounds.

Look Out For

Too Soft and a patient may struggle to self-adjust positions and awaken feeling achy from the lack of support. If claiming to safely support 400 and 500 lb. patients, please check documentation to ensure it will be as equally safe and comfortable for a 90 lb. patient. Some healthcare mattresses compress gradually under the weight of the patient, but have firm edging to prevent edge-of-bed collapse. Sit at the edge of the bed and check if a patient will sink backward and then struggle to overcome the firm edging. *Immersion, Support and Off-Loading Pressure Points, it's all about…all those things.*

Heat-Sealed or Stitched Seams

Look For

Seams that are stronger than the fabric itself. Fabrics have a tear and tensile strength than can be increased or decreased, depending on how they are joined together. Comfortex Closed-System mattresses incorporate inverted and double stitched seams to increase the tear and tensile strength beyond that of each individual fabric in order to create a strong barrier and prevent patient access.

Look Out For

Heat or RF (radio frequency) seams which are commonly used to join two like fabrics. Vinyl or polyurethane coated materials are melted together to form the union. The melted coating becomes the bonding agent. The bond may hold, but the fabric just along the length of the seam can be weakened by the heat, creating a vulnerability that can tear open quite easily.