

A PRACTICAL AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR SAFER REPOSITIONING AND EARLIER DISCHARGE

HD Morphematic® Tilting Topper Trial by NHS Forth Valley

BACKGROUND

NHS Forth Valley conducted a trial of the Morphematic* within the Wallace Suite at the Bellfield Centre to evaluate its effectiveness in supporting a vulnerable patient requiring enhanced pressure care and safer repositioning.

The topper was introduced during the patient's assessment period and transferred into their home environment, ensuring a consistent approach to positioning, handling and skin care throughout the client's journey



Associate

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Trial Period

December 2025 – February 2026

THE TRIAL AIMED TO

- Maintain skin integrity and improve tissue viability
- Reduce manual handling demands on staff
- Reduce stress and anxiety for the patient during positioning
- Support clinical assessment and earlier discharge planning
- Improve continuity of care from hospital to home

IMPLEMENTATION AND STAFF EXPERIENCE

Staff feedback was consistently positive, with teams reporting increased confidence in patient handling, reduced physical strain during repositioning, ease of use across both hospital and home settings, and excellent training and ongoing support from Hospital Direct.

The ability to use the same solution across care settings was seen as a significant benefit for both staff and the patient. Staff also noted that the improved efficiency of the Morphematic reduced challenging behaviours previously exhibited by the patient during personal care, contributing to a calmer, safer and more positive care experience for everyone involved.

KEY OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- Healthy skin was maintained throughout the trial, with vulnerable areas protected
- Improved tissue viability through consistent lateral repositioning
- Improved patient experience and reduced stress during personal care duties
- Reduced manual handling demands and safer patient repositioning
- Enhanced clinical assessment and support for earlier home discharge
- Continued use in the domiciliary setting, supporting continuity of care

The trial also demonstrated potential operational and sustainability benefits, including reduced staff handling time, fewer equipment requirements across settings, and efficiencies linked to earlier discharge planning.

CONCLUSION

The NHS Forth Valley trial demonstrated that the Morphematic is an effective and practical solution for supporting vulnerable patients across hospital and home care environments.

By improving tissue viability, supporting safer handling practices, and enabling continuity of care from assessment through to discharge, the Morphematic delivered measurable benefits for both patients and healthcare teams.

IMPACT

The trial highlighted the value of using one consistent support solution throughout the patient journey, reducing the need for equipment changes between care environments and creating a smoother transition from hospital to home.

For clinical teams, the Morphematic helped simplify repositioning routines and supported a more proactive approach to patient management.

The ability to continue using the same system within the home setting also strengthened collaboration between hospital and domiciliary teams, helping maintain consistency in care delivery and reducing adjustment time following discharge.

Beyond the immediate clinical benefits, the trial demonstrated how integrated equipment solutions can support service efficiency, workforce and patient wellbeing, as well as a more connected care pathway.



**The Morphematic is one of the Ergotrics inflatable positioning aids exclusively distributed by Hospital Direct in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.*