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Stanford Hospital spends \$3M on patient-lifting technology

San Francisco Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

Stanford Hospital & Clinics has invested \$3 million in "lifting" technology to help place patients safely in hospital beds, and keep RNs and other staffers from suffering injuries.

The new **Hill-Rom** equipment, installed over the summer, includes eight overhead lifts, 24 mobile lifts, a special lift for extremely heavy patients and 26 air-powered transfer systems for moving patients from a bed to an X-ray table or other clinical site.

Consulting and training for staffers from consultant **Dynamic Medical Inc.** also came out of the \$3 million, hospital officials said.

Whether dealing with obese patients, or patients with other problems that can be exacerbated by jiggling and jostling, the mechanized lifters are seen as a big plus, officials said.

"It makes patients feel more comfortable when they see us using a machine to move them because we're more confident," Joan Forte, Stanford Hospital & Clinics' interim associate director of nursing, said in a statement. "There's no stress, no concern that they might fall or that moving them might cause some discomfort."

Forte said the new safety equipment "may eventually pay for itself," by reducing workers' compensation claims and related expenses.

The news was released in conjunction with Stanford's participation in the West Coast Safe Patient Handling Conference in San Francisco, which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday at the **San Francisco Hilton Hotel**. It was co-hosted by Stanford.

Hospitalized patients are getting sicker, and hospital nurses older, so technology is being used to help avoid problems, Stanford said. It cited a 2001 survey of 5,000 nurses, which revealed that 40 percent said they'd been injured on the job, and that 60 percent of those cited back injuries.

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