

Expectations for PATRAN® Slide Sheet Inservices

Jamar Health Products, Inc., sells direct to customers. That means when it comes to inservicing employees on how to use PATRAN slide sheets, you get the product experts training your staff. Introducing a safe patient handling program or product can come with hurdles, so Jamar provides the following requirements and recommendations to achieve a successful PATRAN trial.

1. Get necessary approvals prior to inservice:

- a. Jamar requires a *minimum* purchase of 12 boxes of PATRAN products stocked and ready for use when our trainers come to a facility to conduct an inservice. If the entire facility or hospital system will be using PATRAN slide sheets, a larger initial order may be necessary. Materials management should approve the trial and product purchase before scheduling an inservice.
- b. It is important for staff to have access to PATRAN slide sheets immediately following an inservice so they can use the techniques they learned while the training is still fresh in their minds. Jamar trainers will then be able to address any questions or concerns right from the start.

2. Let the injury data guide you: When choosing where to launch PATRAN use in your facility, look at your injury data and feedback from staff. Are there a number of caregivers who have been hurt while repositioning/boosting patients in bed? Are transporters complaining of back pain from laterally transferring patients? Have the radiology techs experienced an increase in shoulder injuries from inserting portable X-ray cassettes? Looking at the injury data will give you a good idea as to where PATRAN slide sheets are most needed to protect employees and achieve cost-savings.

- a. While we recommend using PATRAN throughout your entire healthcare facility, you may choose to target specific departments or floors during an inservice or pilot program.
- b. PATRAN can be used to assist with more than 20 tasks, but teaching all of those skills is time-consuming and can be overwhelming at the start of implementation. Based on the injury data, we can help you choose two or three tasks to focus on as you get started.

3. Set the example: It's important for leadership to show support and interest in the PATRAN® products and training. Directors, supervisors, and managers should plan to attend the inservice and get their hands on the PATRAN. You can be a resource when staff have questions and set an example that training and safe patient handling are important to the organization.

4. Make training a priority: Gathering all staff in a group for a two-minute presentation will not have staying power. Leadership can stress the importance of proper training by providing time for employees to attend hands-on PATRAN training.

- a. Small groups of two to 10 employees per training session allow for each employee to experience working with the PATRAN and/or play the part of the patient if desired.

- b. Training works best if employees are assigned a time to attend training. A come-when-you-can approach may lead to some employees missing crucial steps in the training or being unable to find the time to attend at all. While shift changes seem like good times to engage staff, employees ending a shift may be too tired to fully engage with and remember the training.
 - c. Depending on the number of skills to be taught, generally 20 to 30 minutes per training session is sufficient for an introduction.
 - d. Having the correct equipment in good operating condition can really make a training. For instance, if you will be using a patient room bed and a transport gurney when laterally transferring patients in the hospital on a daily basis, then that is the equipment that should be set up for a PATRAN training. That allows a realistic training experience for staff and enables Jamar trainers to troubleshoot any equipment-related issues.
5. **Choose in-house experts:** Some facilities call them “super users” while others use the term “safe patient handling champions,” either way it’s important to choose people who will become your in-house PATRAN slide sheet experts. Jamar trainers can conduct a more in-depth training on a larger array of skills with the super users, so they can act as a resource during implementation and take employees to the next level as they become more comfortable with basic PATRAN skills. Super users need more training time to learn additional skills.
6. **Communicate your policies:** There are a number of areas where good communication can really help bolster PATRAN usage by employees.
- a. Either prior to the inservice or during, leadership should take time to communicate why PATRAN/safe patient handling products are being implemented at your facility and the benefits to your employees and patients. Employees are more likely to get onboard if they feel part of the process.
 - b. Identify where new PATRANs will be stored. The closer they are kept to the patient, the more likely they will be used. Wall-mount dispensers are available.
 - c. Identify where a PATRAN will be stored after it’s used with a patient, so it is readily available for use during the remainder of the patient’s stay.
 - d. Determine with which patient populations PATRAN will be used. There is no weight limit on PATRAN, but some facilities have policies that pair patients of certain body compositions or medical conditions with specific safe patient handling equipment.