

# Clinitron® Air Fluidized Therapy

## Caregiver Instructions



**OutcomesMatter™**

 **Ethos™** Therapy Solutions

888.861.8612  
[www.ethosoutcomes.com](http://www.ethosoutcomes.com)

# How Clinitron® Air Fluidized Therapy Works

The air fluidized therapy section is filled with medical-grade silicone-coated beads. Air enters the base of the unit, is warmed, then channeled up through the beads placing them into motion creating a “fluidized” state. The Clinitron® fluidization allows the patient to float in the beads providing a near pressure-free environment. Clinitron® AFT offers an environment where bacteria growth is inhibited. Warm, dry air flow to the patient’s skin preventing maceration. A loose-fitting filter sheet allows the patient to move freely, virtually eliminating friction and shear.



# Caregiver Procedures

Utilize the flat sheet anytime a patient is being repositioned or transferred and be sure that the bed is fluidizing. Never reposition a patient when the bed is defluidized. The filter sheet should remain loose under the patient so that it moves freely with the patient.

Note: When the unit is occupied, keep the side rails in the locked position. The side rails are intended to be a reminder to the patient of the unit's edges. The siderails do not lock automatically. Secure the side rails to the unit by sliding the side rail release bars to the locked position. Give each siderail a firm tug upwards to ensure it is secure.

## Patient Placement

1. Place a flat sheet between the patient and the filter sheet.
2. Do not use egg crates, fleece, gel pads or other products that may impede air flow through the filter sheet. Use plastic linen savers only when absorbent materials cannot contain the drainage or when clinically indicated.
3. Prior to transferring the patient into or out of the unit, be sure that the unit is defluidizing.
4. Periodically pull the filter sheet loose around the patient to maintain the flotation effect.
5. Wound healing is optimized when the head elevation is less than 30 degrees.

## Turning and Repositioning

1. While fluidizing, gather the flat sheet at the hip and shoulder, and pull the patient to the side of the unit.
2. To turn the patient, pull the sheet upward and over.
3. Pull the filter sheet loose from under the patient so the sheet moves freely with the patient.

## Seated Transfers or Dangling at Bedside

1. While fluidizing, move the patient to the side closest to the caregiver.
2. Raise the head of the bed to 60° and sit the patient upright.
3. Pivot the patient's legs over the side of the bed to dangle.
4. Use a flat sheet to lift the patient slightly out of the beads while defluidizing the unit.
5. Move the transfer product into place and complete the transfer. Use a transfer board when appropriate.
6. Gently return the patient to defluidizing beads.

## Cushion Comfort

1. Three zones (cushions and airwall).
2. Set at midpoint and adjust each zone as necessary.

## Placing and Removing a Bed Pan

### PLACING:

1. While fluidizing, turn the patient to one side.
2. Position the bedpan.
3. Roll the patient on to the bedpan. If necessary, sit the patient up, and defluidize the unit.

### REMOVING:

4. When voiding is complete, fluidize the bed while using one hand to keep the bedpan flat.
5. With your other arm, turn the patient.
6. Defluidize the unit and remove the bedpan.
7. If necessary, fluidize, reposition the patient then defluidize to complete nursing care.

## Dressing Change

*Note: Protect the fluidization area from petroleum and silver-based compounds by using adequate absorbent material during dressing changes.*

1. While fluidizing, position the patient on their side.
2. Gather the flat sheet at the hip and shoulder, pull the patient up and slightly out of the beads while defluidizing the unit. Defluidize the unit, and simultaneously push down into the beads to create a well-space in the area. Hold down for 2-4 seconds until the beads are firm.

## Patient Comfort

### Bead Temperature

1. Set at midpoint (90 to 93) unless otherwise directed by a physician.
2. Green indicator light indicates that the unit is in warming mode.
3. Orange light indicates the unit is in cooling mode.
4. No light indicates the unit is at the desired temperature.
5. Allow 1-2 hours for the beads to warm or cool for adjustment setting.

# Patient Care Considerations

## Linen Usage

*Remember- less is better. If you must use linens:*

1. A jersey/knit flat sheet helps decrease shear/friction.
2. Use chucks/incontinent pad.
3. Do not pull the sheets tight/taught as this will increase the potential for sheer and friction.

## Incontinence/Drainage

*Note: Use plastic linen savers only when absorbent materials cannot contain the drainage or when clinically indicated.*

1. Patient should not void directly or drain excessively into the beads.
2. Clean the filter sheet between changes with a warm, soapy washcloth.

## Adjusting Patient Room Temperature

*The unit intakes room temperature air and exhaust warmer air. Consider the following to maintain a cooler room environment.*

1. Close the curtains or blinds during the hottest part of the day.
2. Do not store anything underneath the bed.
3. Avoid the use of too many blankets.
4. Use a fan in the room to help keep the air circulating.
5. If you have a room air conditioner, make sure it is working and running.
6. If you have central air conditioning, leave the door to the patient's room open to maximize airflow.

## Rehabilitation/Therapy

1. Patient should spend only limited time out of the unit as pressure can compromise wound healing.
2. Generally, physical therapy can be performed effectively using the fluidized or defluidized modes. Consult your physician for flaps and graphs.

# Maintenance and Care

**Product Discontinued or Hospitalization:** Contact Ethos for removal at 888.861.8612. For infection control purposes keep the unit fluidizing.

**Cleaning:** Slightly soiled sheets or cushions can be spot cleaned with soapy water or any mild, non-abrasive cleaner. Avoid large amounts of liquid from getting into the beads.

**Power Outages:** If the power goes off, the beads will become firm, and the cushions will stay inflated for approximately 2 hours. Remove the patient from the unit

Ethos will perform routine maintenance on rental units and provides 24/7 technical support available by phone. **Call your Ethos representative at 888.861.8612.**

before the cushions deflate or if the patient becomes uncomfortable or changes his or her position often.

**Malfunction:** If the unit malfunctions the bed will shut down and an audible alarm will sound for 10 minutes and the call for service light appears.

**Bead Leakage Prevention and Repair:** If a leak develops, use a damp towel to wipe up beads, place adhesive tape over the hole for temporary repair, and notify your Ethos representative.

