

EMS BEAT

ALBANY MED OUTREACH NEWSLETTER



Area Hospitals to be Equipped with Evacused™ Emergency Evacuation System

Nineteen hospitals in our region will soon be equipped with the Evacused Emergency Evacuation System. The Evacused, which was used successfully during Hurricane Katrina to bring patients to safety, attaches to a patient's bed and turns the mattress into an evacuation vehicle. Requiring only seconds to deploy, Evacused cocoons the patient and mattress together. The patient, mattress and Evacused are then rolled off the bed deck. Numerous small wheels on the underside of the Evacused allow the rescuer to roll the Evacused down hallways and stairwells to safety according to the facility's evacuation plan.

Use of the Evacused involves no lifting, only pulling (pull force is 30 lbs for 195 lb patient). As a result, one person can evacuate one patient. It is fast, efficient and comfortable for the patient. The treatment surface travels with the patient along with IV, etc. The Evacused has five support panels built in for extra protection of patient's head and spine.

The Evacused standard model is compatible with standard beds, as well as some specialty beds. Beds equipped with Evacused can be readily identified as the device is bright yellow and is visible between the mattress and the bed frame. In case you must respond to an emergency evacuation at a hospital, a staff



Staff demonstrate vertical evacuation using the Evacused.

member can show you how to deploy an Evacused in less than a minute. It is anticipated that in an emergency, many regional hospitals would prepare staging areas for loaded Evacuseds ready for transport.

The Evacuseds were purchased for the region's hospitals under a Regional Resource Center (RRC) grant from the Department of Health. The RRC plans to purchase 300 of these devices with the goal of purchasing enough to meet the needs of the region's hospitals. Albany Med plans to use the Evacuseds only in emergency situations when patients must be transported vertically to another floor or ground level. Over time, Evacuseds will be available on most beds in most of the region's hospitals of two stories or more.

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