Situation
Recent Safe Patient Handling legislations have focused attention on reducing back injuries in the nursing industry. The PPSGlide offers an ergonomic solution to help with this problem while nurses laterally transfer patients. The Glide system includes a mat that is placed under the patient. Tissue interface pressure (TIP) readings were evaluated to aid healthcare facilities in determining whether or not to leave the mat under the patient.

Methodology
A third-party facility conducted tissue interface pressure mapping using XSENSOR™ pressure mapping system on one bed surface, Isoflex® Pressure Redistribution, and one stretcher surface, Pioneer® Pressure Redistribution. The surfaces were placed on a sturdy laboratory table. The first scan was completed with the subject lying directly on the surface. The second scan was completed by placing a deflated PPSGlide mat on the surface with the patient lying on top. An average size adult was used for the analysis examining three critical zones: scapula, sacrum and heel. The subject was dressed in an appropriate size cotton sweat suit and without shoes to ensure optimum contact with the full surface sensor matrix.

Conclusion
No significant increases in TIP averages were seen when comparing the Isoflex to the Isoflex with PPSGlide, or when comparing the Pioneer stretcher mattress to the Pioneer with PPSGlide.

Results
TIP averages are listed to the right; the pressure mappings are below.