

# QR for QI - Improving staff confidence when using the Pro-1

Bethany Parnell, Mitul Patel, Victoria Dawe, Emily Phizacklea, Elsbeth Dyson  
Anaesthetics Department, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth University Hospitals NHS Trust

Proning is sometimes necessary for surgical access. The process is demanding for staff (1), and poses potential patient safety issues (2). The Pro-turn® (Hospital Direct) is a reusable piece of equipment that aims to make proning safer for staff and patients. Following anecdotal evidence of low motivation to use the Pro-turn® in our department, we sought to investigate this and introduce an educational tool to improve confidence and safety.

## Methods

A survey to investigate confidence and knowledge using the Pro-Turn® was distributed to theatre staff in a large DGH. Staff were asked to report their own confidence and safety in using the Pro-turn® on a quantitative scale (0=not confident, 5=very confident). A step-by-step guide [figure A] with a Quick Response (QR) code (linking to a video demonstration) [figure B] was produced and attached to the equipment. Following introduction of these interventions for one month, a further survey was then completed to re-assess confidence.

## Results

- Initial survey returned 59 responses from anaesthetists, surgeons & wider theatre staff.
- 33% of respondents had never used the Pro-Turn® before. 60% felt that a printed visual aid and 75% felt that a video demonstration would improve confidence levels.
- Mean self-reported confidence was 2.7 & mean self-reported safety was 2.4 (out of 5).
- The post-intervention survey (20 respondents at time of submission) demonstrated improvements in mean self-reported confidence to 3.8 and mean self-reported safety to 4 (out of 5).
- *100% of respondents felt the interventions were useful.*

## Discussion

- Barriers to proning patients in theatre include staff unfamiliarity & lack of training (1)
- Access to formal training is limited currently due to social distancing guidelines.
- We have demonstrated that simple and free interventions can improve self-reported confidence and safety of the theatre multi-disciplinary team when using the Pro-turn® to prone patients.

## References

1. N Wiggerman. J Zhou. D Kumpar. 'Proning patients with COVID-19: A Review of Equipment and Methods'. Human Factors. 2020; **62** (7): 1069-1076
2. H Edgcombe. K Carter. S Yarrow. 'Anaesthesia in the prone position'. British Journal of Anaesthesia. 2008; **100** (2): 165-

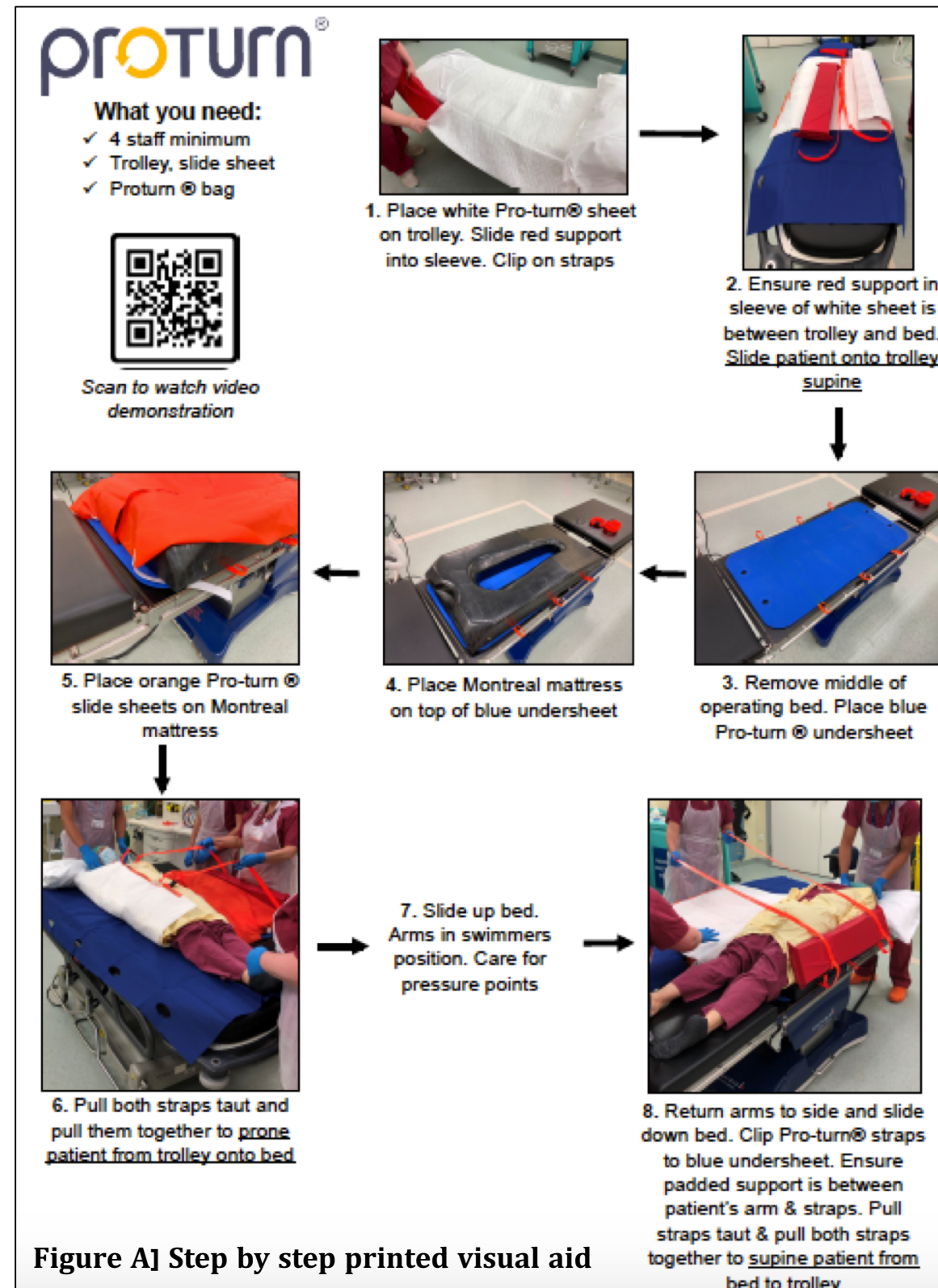


Figure A] Step by step printed visual aid

## Acknowledgements

With thanks to Rachel Bartlett, Theatres Moving & Handling lead, Queen Alexandra Hospital, PU  
Free to use software used for video editing (Mixilab Animotica©) & QR code generation (Unitag©)