



## Prairie Rehabilitation and the Xsensor Pressure Mapping System

Pressure ulcers are a chronic problem for many people. Clinicians face the task of determining the product that will be best for a patient's specific problem. Currently clinicians use a variety of support surfaces to manage pressure, offer comfort and postural control; however, not all products are optimal for every patient. Pressure mapping is one way to determine which product is best.

The therapists at Prairie Rehab have been using the Xsensor system for many years. The sensors provide an electronic reading and color maps to indicate pressure areas. The Xsensor Pressure Mapping System is composed of a thin cover with hundreds of sensors between the patient and their support surface. The sensors record pressure over the area in contact with the support surface. The patient can be in sitting, supine, or sidelying. The measurements give quantitative data on how well the cushion bed or overlay is redistributing pressure between the skin and support surface. This information assists in evaluating the effectiveness of the support surface.

While pressure maps provide valuable information for clinicians they are not used alone. Protocol is still followed that includes thorough clinical assessment, especially for individuals who use wheelchairs. Pressure mapping is only one area of evaluation a support surface. Shear, friction, temperature and moisture must also be considered as well as product life.

Gidget McAreavey, OTR/L, ATP and Jeff Steinberger, PT, ATP have assisted hundreds of clients be safer, more comfortable, and more functional.

**To make an appointment** at Prairie Rehabilitation or for more additional information please feel free to contact Prairie Rehabilitation at (605)334-5630. We are also available for brief presentations on the Xsensor Pressure Mapping or seating and positioning for interested groups.

