

## An update from St. Joseph Medical Center: Response to Damaged Hospital Equipment

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November 17, 2022

St. Joseph Medical Center takes the highest responsibility to ensure the safety and quality of our equipment for our patients. We are aware of information circulating that indicates unsafe and damaged mattresses were in use at our facility. We strongly disagree with these claims and have never used any mattresses that are deemed unsafe or damaged.

We have protocols in place to inspect all of our beds after every use. Through this process, we ensure that any damaged mattresses are immediately removed from service and patient care and that any mattresses experiencing routine wear are replaced before they are compromised.

We apologize for any frustration or concern this may have caused our patients. We recognize patients may have seen information reported on this topic, and we want to address your questions. As always, please reach out to your provider if you have any questions or concerns.

### **How does St. Joseph ensure beds are clean and safe for patients?**

- As a standard process, we regularly inspect all beds after every use when they are cleaned and disinfected, and immediately remove any mattresses from use if they do not meet safety standards.
- Any mattresses that are compromised are immediately taken out of commission and not used for patient care.

### **I saw a video of a mattress leaking fluid. Was that mattress used by patients?**

- The mattress in the video was immediately inspected after its most recent usage and removed from service when it did not pass safety requirements. It was not in commission when the photo and video were taken.
- It was not used in that condition for patient care.

### **Why is it taking weeks to replace mattresses?**

- Due to supply chain disruptions affecting the entire region and industry, replacement beds have not been as readily available, even when orders are promptly placed.
- However, this does not mean that damaged or compromised beds are in use until replacements are available.