



A COMMUNITY RESPONDS: YES, WE CAN.

And they found a new way to help COVID patients breathe.

Medical professionals around the world are struggling to treat COVID-19 patients, particularly those on ventilators. So when our nursing leadership team at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital learned about a promising new technique called “proning,” they were all in to find a way to offer it.

Proning is simply a matter of positioning patients on their stomachs, which helps to improve oxygen levels and keep fluids out of their lungs.

The technique is easier said than done. Nurses can’t just unhook a patient’s ventilator. It takes a team effort to keep them attached to all necessary equipment. With COVID-19 restrictions in place and limited nursing resources, the nursing leadership team had to be creative to get the job done without disrupting normal bedside care.

Enter the rehabilitation department, who helped build a special proning team of respiratory therapists, nurses, a doctor and physical and occupational therapists. First, they cocoon patients for safety and comfort and then, in one very carefully orchestrated motion, they log-roll patients onto their stomachs, where they lie for 12 to 16 hours.

Thanks to the initiative and collaborative spirit between the two teams, many of these patients are back home now, well on their way to recovery.