VIRTUSENSE™

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE
OF SOUTH HILLS
A LIFESPACE COMMUNITY®

2021

CASE STUDY

VSTAlert at Friendship Village of South Hills: A Lifespace Community

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OVERVIEW

Friendship Village of South Hills in Upper St. Clair, PA, is part of Lifespace Communities, a not-for-profit, multistate system of senior living communities that currently serve more than 5,100 people. Like most communities throughout the U.S., they were interested in reducing resident falls, especially those resulting in serious injury.

METHODS

In early 2021, Friendship Village partnered with VirtuSense to deploy **VSTAlert** in 18 beds for residents who were deemed "high fall risk" in its 89-bed skilled nursing unit. **VSTAlert** uses predictive analytics to recognize a resident's intent to leave their bed 30-65 seconds before they get up and sends alerts to the assigned nurse within a second. Team members from VirtuSense were available to provide guidance during installation and train the nurses and staff to ensure they would get the best results.

> "This was the most organized implementation I have been a part of. The entire VirtuSense team was invested from the onset and they continue to provide feedback, data, and support as the program evolves. The training made such an impact with implementation."
>
> **Dr. Sara Elizabeth Hamm, DNP, RN**
> Chief Clinical & Public Health Officer, Lifespace Communities, Inc.

RESULTS

In the first two months of deployment (June and July 2021), falls decreased 47% and falls with injury dropped 96% in the entire skilled nursing unit, with VSTAlert used in only 20% of the beds. "The cost savings of one major injury results in significant cost savings to the resident and organization, so VSTAlert more than pays for itself. It is a great selling feature to offer our community partners and families," Hamm explains.

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96% REDUCTION IN FALLS WITH INJURY WITH **VST**Alert

CONCLUSION

"Partnering with VirtuSense has allowed us to make a profound impact on residents' rehabilitation, safety, and treatment. VSTAlert is a game-changer for predicting and reducing the risk for serious falls resulting in injury and hospitalization," says Hamm. "Using **VSTAlert** is a relief to families, staff, and residents. The VirtuSense team was fully invested from the onset, and they continue to provide valuable feedback, team member training, data, and support as the program evolves."

By identifying their highest-risk residents (20% of the population) and deploying **VSTAlert** in those rooms, Friendship Village was able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct (emergency care) and indirect (staffing, liability, insurance) costs community wide. **VSTAlert** protects high-risk residents with truly predictive bedside monitoring that notifies staff before a fall occurs.

With **98% accuracy, VSTAlert** makes sure the right people are in the right place at the right time so staff can care for more people with fewer resources. "It's really helped to prioritize care, especially when we're short-handed. There are no false alarms," Hamm explains.

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