

The following article comes from the AHA publication  
Health Facilities Management Magazine  
April 2001, vol. 13, no. 4.

The product being referred to is the Evacused.

### **What a drag: Patient evacuation practices may be lacking**

The 2001 edition of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations' newly revised Emergency Management standard (EC.1.4) requires that hospitals have plans for both horizontal and vertical evacuation.

Most hospitals currently rely on the blanket drag method to move immobile patients in the event of an emergency. However, a recent study compared the blanket drag with the use of a new device designed specifically for patient evacuation.

Results showed that only one of the volunteer rescuers (a male) could complete one full lap using the blanket drag, pulling a 160-pound female evacuee. The remaining rescuers found it impossible to move the evacuee 100 feet. In comparison, using the new device, each of the volunteers was able to complete five 100-foot laps without assistance using the same evacuee in an average of 21.6 seconds per lap.