

# A long-term durability assessment of static air filled pressure redistribution devices in the community setting.

**Maria Poole Lead Nurse Tissue Viability**, Wolverhampton PCT (Formerly South Staffordshire PCT) Tel: 01902 444 015  
**Anne Coghlan Wound Care Sister**, South Staffordshire PCT Tel: 01889 571 433

The UK NHS is estimated to spend over £2bn each year in managing pressure ulcers and associated conditions. In 2003, NHS NICE guidelines stressed the value of relatively low technology support surfaces while noting the lack of evidence for more sophisticated technology systems.

**Aim:** The purpose of this study was to evaluate the durability of one relatively low-cost, low-tech support surface range in the community setting in order to determine its value in accordance with the NICE 2003 guidelines. The range of static air filled mattress overlays, cushions and foot protectors well known and established in this community setting and their use was supported by independently published evidence and clinical practice. It was also relatively low-cost to purchase in comparison to more sophisticated systems. The question remained as to its durability and longevity in use in order to determine its value.

## Loan store static PAC device usage 2002 - 2007

	Total	Cushions	Mattresses	Foot Protector (pair)
Consumed between 2002 and 2007	458	235	155	68
Average uses (recycled)	4	3	5	3
Durability (Months in use)	20	19	21	21
Maximum period in use (years)	6.36	5.65	4.89	6.36

**Method:** Each device purchased by this community loan store was individually tagged and logged into an asset management tracking database. Each time the device was used and returned the event was recorded. The log was only completed when the device was withdrawn from service with the reason for withdrawal noted. The study analysed 458 devices consumed during the period.

**Results and conclusions:** The study demonstrated this range of pressure area care devices were durable and represented value for money in line with the NICE 2003 guideline recommendations.

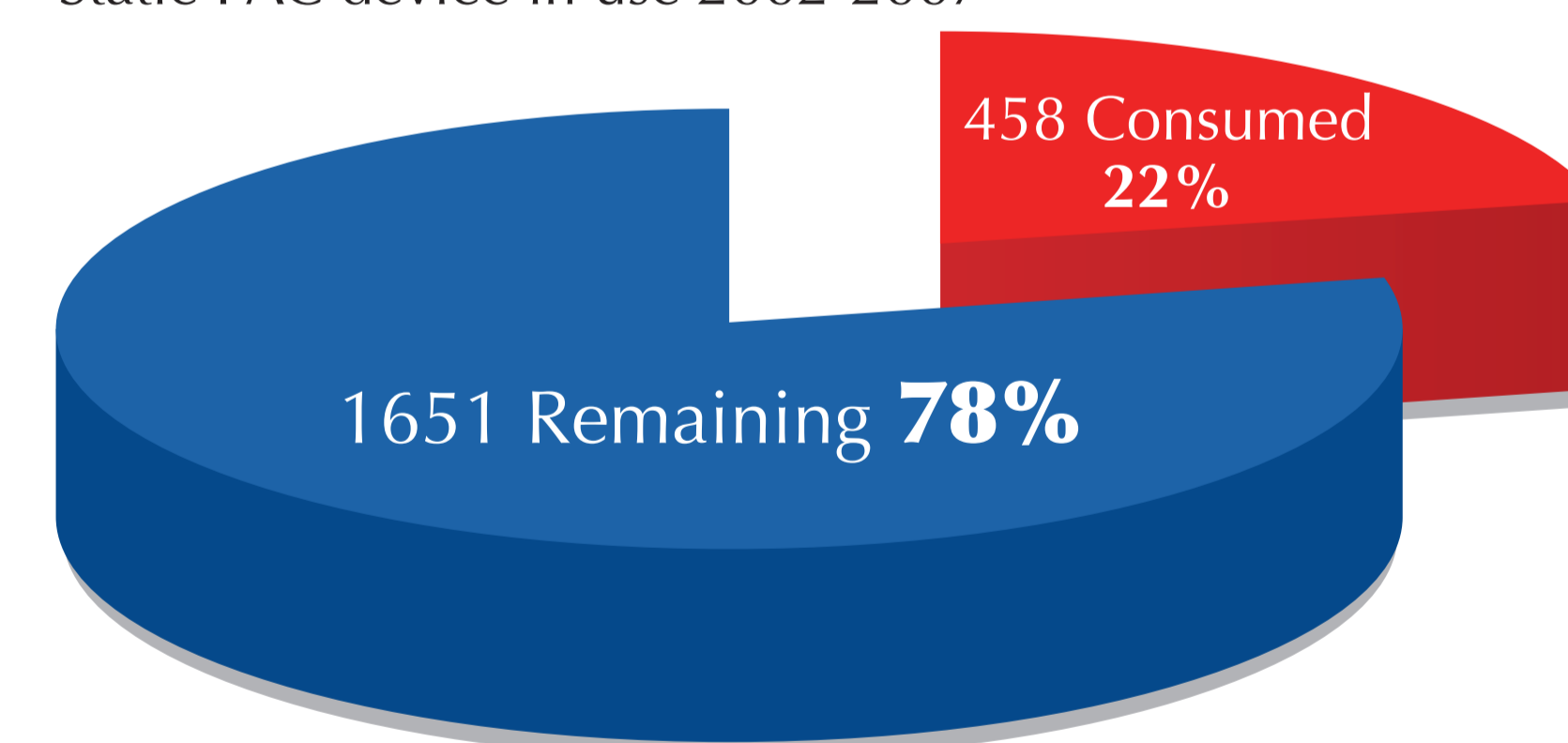
## Loan store data - Static PAC devices

Purchased between 2002 and 2007

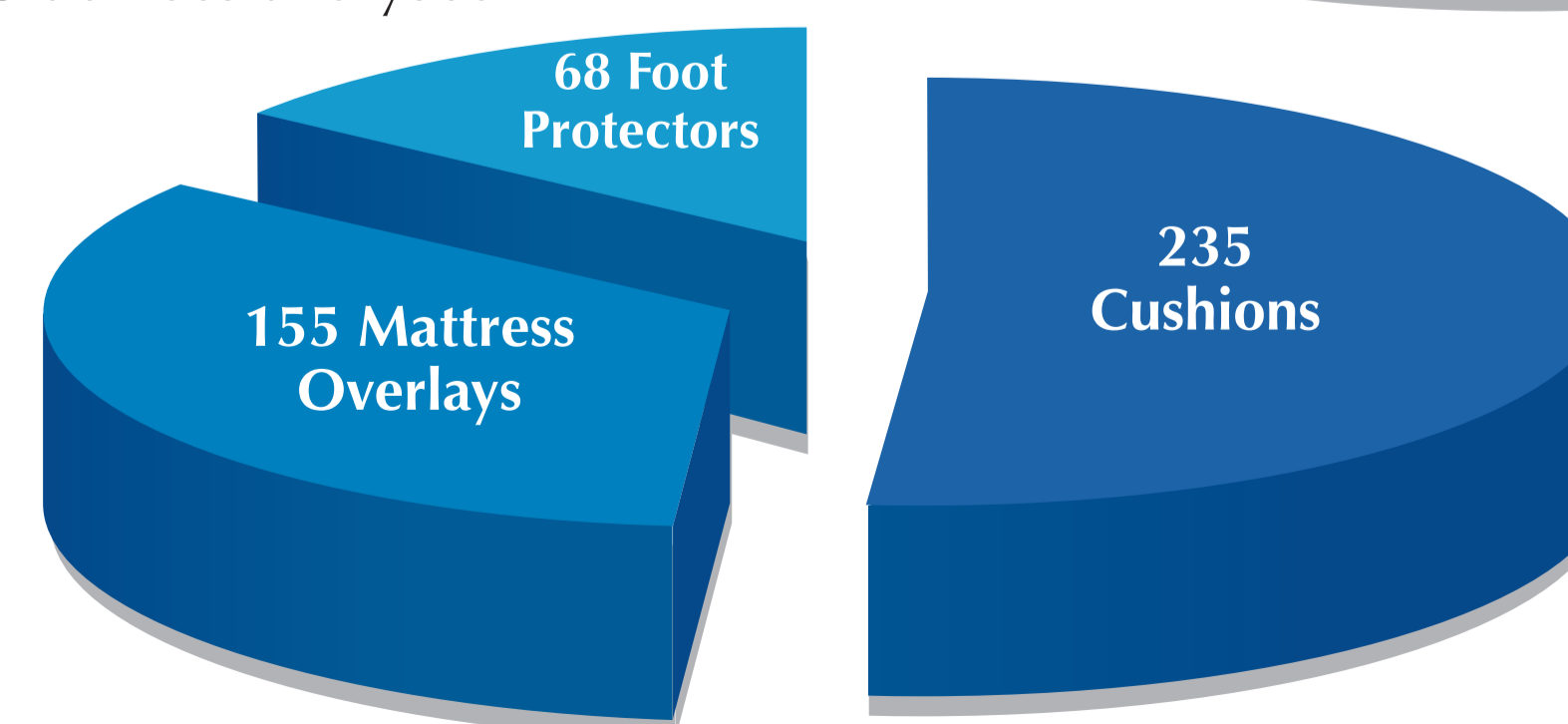
	Purchased	Consumed	Balance	% Remaining
Mattresses	827	155	672	81%
Cushions	1006	235	771	77%
Foot protectors	276	68	208	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2109</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>1651</b>	<b>78%</b>

A total of 2109 static air filled pressure redistribution devices were purchased between 2002 and 2007 of which 458 (22%) were consumed during that period.

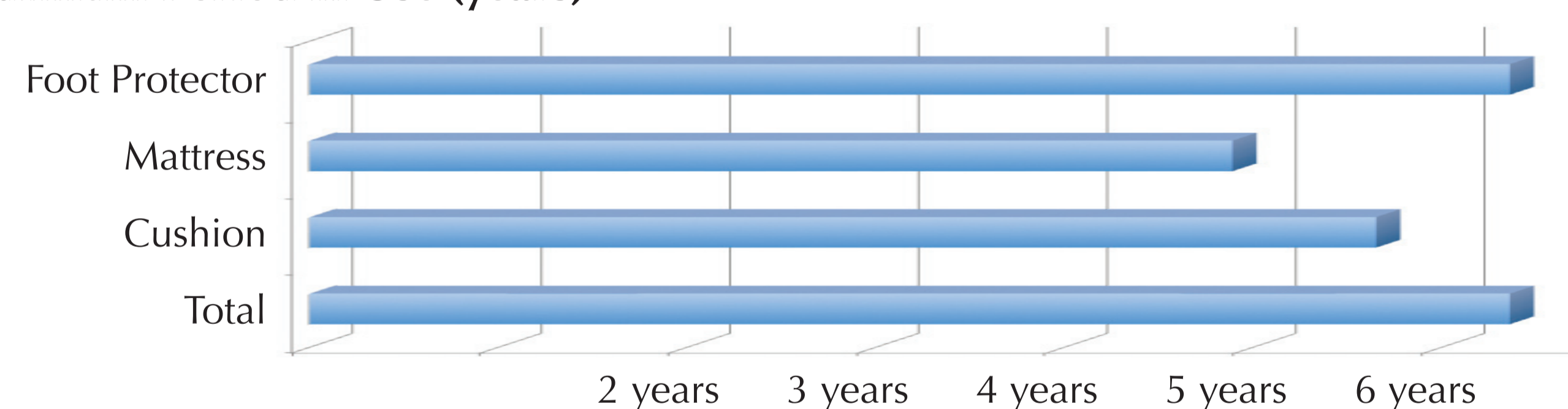
Static PAC device in use 2002-2007



458 PAC devices analysed



## Maximum Period in Use (years)



## Average Durability (months)

