Case Study- Integral Skin Medical Tables

Problem: A manufacturer of medical and chiropractic tables looked to improve the design of their tables while reducing labor costs involved with “cut-and-sew” vinyl covering over foam. Molded foam tables in the past had received complaints because of the firmness associated with most molded polyurethane integral skins foams.

Solution: NCFI worked closely with the customer to develop a very low density, very soft integral skin foam that could be used to mold in-place the entire table surface over a mounting board with integral hardware. The resultant foam formulation gave excellent results with a very plush, comfortable surface for the patient with improved durability and resistance to bacterial growth due to the addition of anti-microbials in the foam. The part production time was reduced dramatically as parts could be pulled from the mold and be ready to box in 20 minutes. This was a dramatic reduction in manufacturing times needed compared to the more traditional labor intensive upholstery method.

Results: The customer was pleased with the new design of the table and was able to reduce production time and labor costs per part. In addition to the cost benefit of reduced labor, the product durability and resistance to bacterial growth gave the customer a new set of features to sell. Lastly, with the molding process, the customer was able to mold their logo into each table cushion resulting in an instant marketing opportunity for the manufacturer.