

Beds Must Be Easy to Operate

Situation

The complexity and rising expense of treating critical patients are being felt by healthcare organizations around the country. These hospitals are faced with the continuing challenge of providing quality care while driving down associated costs. Clinicians and hospital administrators are focusing on the patient's center of care — the hospital bed.

“Gadgets, bells and whistles and alarms tend to cause problems and disrupt the efficiency of care,” states the director of surgical and nursing services at one of the nation's largest group purchasing organizations.

A critical care director in Alabama said, “We want products that make the things we do everyday, easier.”

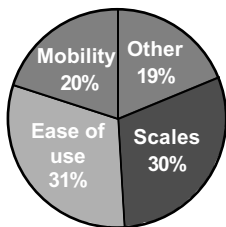
A trauma care director in Michigan says that critical care beds are merely her ‘work surface’...“I don't have time to think about manipulating a bed, my focus is on the patient.”

Rationale

Stryker Corporation's 60-year history in critical care bed manufacturing is based on a philosophy and tradition of clinician-driven designs. Its famous Wedge® Turning Frame, developed in 1939, established the company as the industry innovator. This landmark product was followed by the first critical care beds with scales, in-bed fluoroscopy capabilities, Zoom™ self-propelled drive system and the Chaperone bed-exit alarm system based on load cells.

As new technologies become available, and with the advent of new procedures for delivering healthcare, Stryker Medical returned once again to its core philosophy for product development. Stryker Medical asked clinicians what they wanted in a critical care bed.

Methodology



Top Survey Responses

In a national survey¹, critical care nurses were asked to rank their top six essential needs in a critical care bed. Ease of use was rated as the most desired feature, surpassing even the need for scales. Ease of use, scales and mobility were rated as the top requirements by 81% of the participants.

Study conclusions were then used in a comparative analysis of the Stryker critical care bed and the Hill-Rom® TotalCare™ bed.

Results

In a comparison of clinicians' top three rated needs, the Stryker Epic II™ critical care bed was determined to be easier to use. This was achieved with three key comparisons: 1) time required to zero each bed and to weigh patients, 2) the complexity of user interface, and 3) the average start-up pushing force needed on tile. In each test, the Epic II performed best.

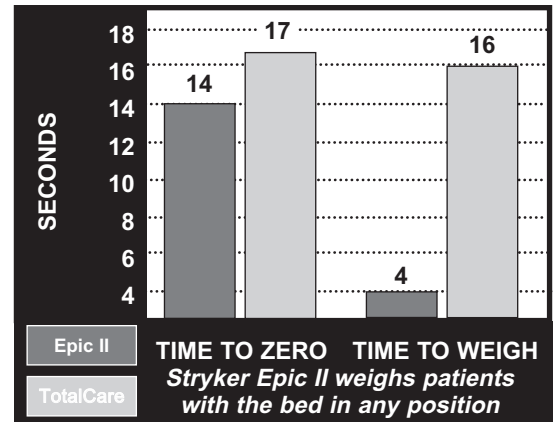
Conclusion

Critical care nurses want beds that serve as their ‘work surface.’ This work surface should intuitively and efficiently facilitate and complement the clinician's care for the patient. Ease of use, scales and bed mobility were overwhelmingly rated as the most desired features. Stryker critical care beds best meet these requirements.

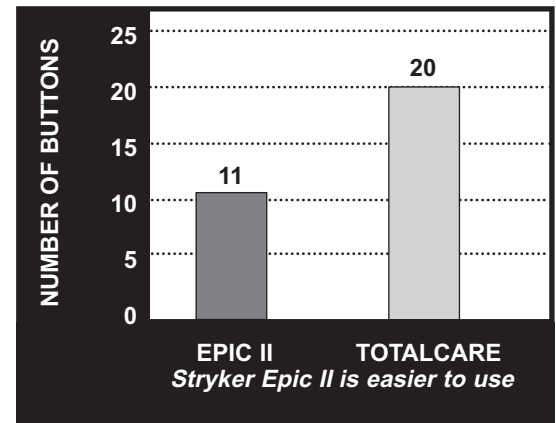
¹ National Survey, Stryker Medical, July/August 1999.

² Testing conducted by Stryker on 1999 models.
TotalCare is a trademark of Hill-Rom.

OBTAINING PATIENT WEIGHTS



DIFFICULTY OF USER INTERFACE Patient Siderails



AVERAGE START-UP PUSHING FORCE NEEDED ON TILE ²

