

Stryker LD304 Birthing Bed Supports True User Needs

Situation

Nursing professionals today face more challenges than ever before—nursing school admissions are down and the nursing population is quickly aging. To add to the challenge, patient sizes are increasing, creating a more physically demanding work environment. Specifically in labor and delivery, epidural rates continue to climb as the task of moving and lifting heavy or immobile patients creates the opportunity for more risk of caregiver injury. The incidence of gestational diabetes is also increasing, which further compounds the risk of emergency situations.

The need for patient handling equipment that not only helps caregivers deliver superior patient outcomes, but also helps them do their jobs quicker, more effectively and with reduced risk of personal injury is greater than ever.

Rationale

Stryker Medical has a long tradition of listening and responding to the needs of medical professionals everywhere. For more than 60 years, the cornerstone of the company's new product development has been collecting input from end users on how our products can help enhance healing by performing as a supporting player in the role of patient care and recovery. At Stryker, real innovation supports true user needs because the information we gather from nursing professionals directly impacts the products we manufacture in order to best serve the changing needs of the market.

Methodology

In a national survey of 249 labor and delivery nurses, 65 percent of who currently use a competitor's birthing bed, Stryker probed respondents to offer information and insights on three critical areas of care:

- 1) causes of daily, job-related physical pain
- 2) features of their current birthing beds with which they were most dissatisfied
- 3) suggestions on features they would like included in a new birthing bed

Results

Third-party analysis of the data collected confirmed the following:

- 1) lifting and turning patients was the number one cause of physical pain in the labor and delivery environment
- 2) the most common dislike of a respondent's current bed was removing and replacing the foot section
- 3) the most common new feature suggestion was for overall product ease of use and, more specifically, to make the foot section of the bed simpler to break down

Conclusion

Stryker understands that labor and delivery nurses, responding to the increase in average patient weights and epidural rates, need a birthing bed with features that help make patient positioning easier and safer for both caregivers and moms. Today, Stryker's LD304 birthing bed addresses all three critical areas of need with exclusive feature sets:

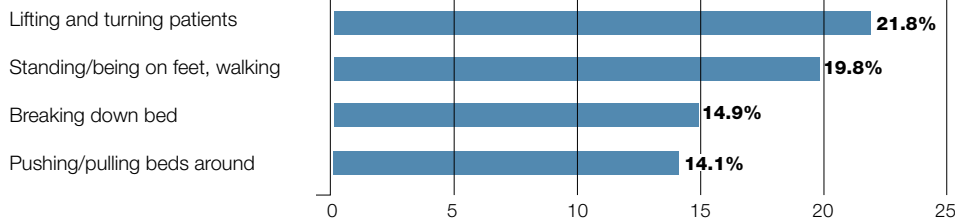
- 1) Skoocher™ allows the nurse to bring mom to the edge of the bed with a push of a button, as opposed to manually repositioning the patient
- 2) Lock-Rite® foot section is the only foot section on the market that provides a visual cue when locked
- 3) Lock-Rite foot section has also been proven to reduce the risk of a lower back disorder by 63 percent when compared to the competitor's product¹; additionally, LD304 is the only bed that offers one-button electric Trendelenburg positioning

The Stryker LD304 birthing bed was built exclusively for labor and delivery nurses, by labor and delivery nurses, to help address the unique cares and concerns of this special patient environment.

Survey Question	Respondent Answer	Stryker Response
Causes of physical pain	Moving and lifting patients	Skoocher
Dissatisfaction with current bed	Removing and replacing foot section	Lock-Rite foot section
Most desired product feature	Ease of use	Lock-Rite foot section; one-button electric Trendelenburg

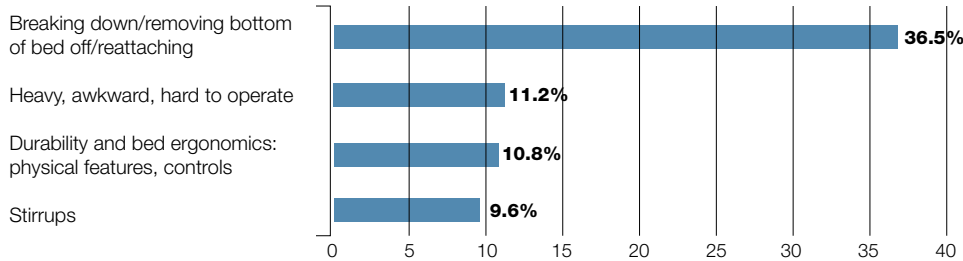
What causes you physical pain in your job?

(Total Mentions N=249)



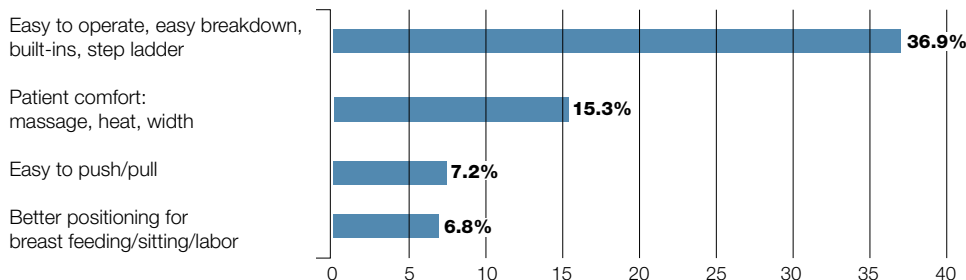
What do you dislike about the birthing beds you are using today?

(Total Mentions N=249)



What feature, function or benefit would you include on a birthing bed?

(Total Mentions N=249)



1. Fredericks, Tycho K., Steven E. Butt, Anil R. Kumar and Supreeta Amin, "Biomechanical Analyses of Nurses using the Foot Section of Birthing Beds of Different Designs," *Proceedings of the 10th Annual International Conference on Industrial Engineering — Theory, Applications, and Practice* (Dec. 4, 2005).