Hill-Rom Launches New TotalCare® Bariatric Bed System

(Batesville, Ind., June 5, 2003) Hill-Rom, a leading provider of patient care environment and care process solutions, today launched the TotalCare® Bariatric Bed to help hospitals manage the impact of the growing bariatric (or obese) patient population.

With the escalating number of US adults who are obese or overweight, hospitals are faced with the challenges associated with caring and managing this patient population. The challenges include the need to reduce the risk of injury to caregivers and patients, improve patient comfort, and to address concerns relating to improving patient mobility, a potentially complicating factor in the patient’s recovery and length of stay in the hospital. The TotalCare Bariatric Bed from Hill-Rom was designed to help address each of these issues.

“Managing heavier patients with an aging nursing workforce can result in increased injuries to both nurses and patients, as well as decrease the efficiency of the caregiving process,” said Ernest Waaser, president and CEO of Hill-Rom. “We are very excited about our new TotalCare Bariatric Bed, supporting education and room design services. We are confident that it will help our customers address the unique challenges of this rapidly increasing patient population.”

This innovative bed was designed using an Anthropocentric® approach that focused on body proportion and functionality. A bariatric patient’s center of gravity impacts their mobility, such as their ability to sit or stand, and thereby increases their reliance on the caregiver to help them. Hill-Rom engineers considered these and many other factors in the design.

The key features and benefits of the TotalCare Bariatric bed include:
- FullChair® and chair egress positioning help maintain the patient’s ability to exit from the bed from either the side or foot of the bed with minimal caregiver support. This feature also helps ensure compliance with doctor’s “up-in-chair” orders without transferring out of the bed.
- The IntelliDrive® power transport system enables caregivers to easily transport the patient and the bed within the hospital with fewer caregivers required to perform this task.
- It has a strengthened frame as well as side rail extenders to enhance patient and caregiver safety and to help provide the proper support.

This bed also has all the amenities of the original TotalCare® bed that have been on the market since 1997, which includes FlexAfoot™ positioning, Shearless Pivot™, Point of Care™ Controls, and more.

The bed was also built to accommodate the special needs of the bariatric patient. Along with a four-inch wider frame and sleep surface, it is equipped with a easy-to-use patient pendant control for greater independence and autonomy. To enhance patient comfort, a high quality, three-layer mattress was developed and extensively tested to meet the specific need of a firm, yet comfortable surface. In addition, the bed was designed to match other hospital beds and reduce the stigma associated with traditional and often conspicuous bariatric equipment.

The TotalCare Bariatric Bed is now available in the U.S. market for use in acute care facilities

About Hill-Rom

Hill-Rom provides health care facilities with comprehensive solutions that help caregivers safely deliver effective and efficient care to their patients in acute care, long term care and home care environments. These comprehensive solutions can include: facility assessments, patient beds, stretchers, therapy surfaces, communication systems, medical gas management systems, infant warmers and incubators, modular headwalls and lighting systems. The company also offers expert, clinical and equipment services and programs that can help improve asset productivity, operational efficiency and patient outcomes. Hill-Rom’s global headquarters is based in Batesville, Ind., and employs approximately 6,000 people worldwide. It is an operating company of Hillenbrand Industries (NYSE:HB).

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