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## **Hackley Hospital's Bed Purchase First of Its Kind in Nation**

*New VersaCare™ Bed System Offers State-of-the-Art Wound Therapy and Safety Features*

**Muskegon, MI** - A new generation of hospital beds are arriving at Hackley Hospital representing the first of their kind to be sold in the United States. The new beds will enhance patient comfort and safety, reduce workplace injuries of caregivers, and improve patient outcomes through improved wound care.

Hill-Rom, a global provider of patient care and hospital equipment, began selling its new VersaCare™ Bed System nationwide in late March. Hackley Hospital's order of 169 beds accounts for the company's first sale outside demonstration sites. Hackley Hospital's bed replacement project will occur in three phases through May with a total capital investment of \$1.4 million. New beds will be installed on all medical-surgical floors, the critical care unit, rehabilitation unit, pediatrics, and the Hackley Hospital Family Birth Place.

States **Lisa Metzdorf, Chief Nurse Executive at Hackley Hospital**, "This VersaCare bed provides unbelievable patient comfort and incorporates our top clinical objectives. In my thirty years of nursing, I have never seen so much technology and patient comfort features included in a bed system. It is an amazing upgrade for our patients."

Nationally, complaints about beds and food traditionally top the list of patient complaints at acute care hospitals. With the bed purchase Hospital officials are trying to exceed patient expectations and improve care. States **Stuart Jones, Manager of Community Relations at Hackley Hospital**, "The new bed system accomplishes three organizational objectives with one broad stroke. Improved patient outcomes. More comfortable patients. And a safer work environment." Due to lifting and turning of patients, back injuries to health care workers are a major concern industry wide, and this bed is expected to substantially reduce staff to such exposures.

“We’ve heard from our customers who say they want a bed that delivers effective wound therapy and, at the same time, helps with patient and caregiver safety,” said Tony Orsini, senior vice president and general manager of Hill-Rom’s Care Environment Division.

The VersaCare™ Bed System is uniquely designed to deliver effective wound therapy and improved patient safety in the hospital environment. Nationwide, pressure ulcers occur in 14.8% of hospitalized patients due to immobility (i.e., resting in bed). The average cost nationally to treat such ulcers in 2001 was \$23,364. This bed system is uniquely designed to provide pressure relief, thus dramatically reducing the occurrence of pressure ulcers in patients.

Caregiver safety is also a top priority of the VersaCare™ Bed System. Nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the nursing profession is the riskiest for back injuries. On average, 61.5 per 1,000 back injuries to nurses result in lost days from work (a median of five days) – higher than any other profession. Twelve out of every 100 hospital nurses report back injuries, double the average for all other professions combined. Back injuries to nurses primarily occur due to the number of times they must lift, turn, and transfer patient in and out of beds.

The new bed system projects radically reduced back injuries for Hackley nurses, due to such features and the bed height being automatically lowered to 18 inches from ground, the LowChair positioning system, and the Turn Assist features. States Metzdorf, “Not only will this better protect the health of our nurses, I also see it as a great recruitment tool. A bed system like this is a very big deal to nurses who do a lot of difficult lifting on a daily basis.”

VersaCare™ Bed System features include the following:

- **Low height:** The bed offers the lowest height off the floor available in an acute care setting (18 inches), allowing for safer, easier exit and entry and reducing the risk of patient falls.
- **LowChair™ positioning:** Patients can slide into a wheelchair with little effort and avoid potential falls.
- **FlexAfoot™ mechanism:** This feature adjust the length of the bed and accommodate heights as large as 6’8”, thus preventing patients from sliding down in bed and providing enhanced patient and staff safety.
- **Active Intelligence Response™ treatment mattress:** The mattress technology minimizes side rail gaps reducing the risk of entrapment, provides continuous low pressure to help reduce the risk of skin ulcers, and Max Inflate function, makes transfers are easier for both patients and caregivers with a Max Inflate function.
- **Turn Assist:** This option makes it easy for a caregiver to position a patient and more easily complete routine tasks, such as examinations or linen changes.

The majority of the hospital’s current beds have been re-purchased by Hill-Rom with the remainder to be donated to International Aid of Spring Lake.

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