

# Case Study

**HERCULES DELIVERS CAREGIVER SAFETY BENEFITS AS WELL AS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE, EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION, CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND HELPS IN HOSPITAL'S MAGNET RE-DESIGNATION.**

## Background

The nurse back injury rate at The Christ Hospital, a 555-bed urban Magnet facility in Cincinnati, OH, was increasing even though nursing leadership was committed to workplace safety initiatives. In particular, one unit had seen a 500% increase over a two year period. This increase was significant enough to require the development of an immediate action plan focused on decreasing or eliminating these back injuries.

## Action Plan

The action plan selected consisted of acquiring Hercules Patient Repositioners (Hercules) which would allow a single caregiver to reposition patients, weighing up to 500 lbs, back up in bed with the simple push of a button. 26 of the Hercules systems were installed in the hospital's kidney transplant and renal unit in June of 2014. Immediately after their purchase, both patients and caregivers experienced the ease, simplicity, safety and comfort of automated repositioning. Comments from caregivers heard by the Clinical Nurse Manager of the unit, Shelly Deyhle, included statements such as "my back doesn't hurt anymore when I go home from work" and "I finally get to enjoy my lunch break without being distracted to help pull a patient up in bed". From the patient perspective, caregivers heard comments about the comfort of automated boosting (e.g. no pulling and tugging). Also, they were hearing comments from family members of patients about how Hercules made them feel better about the care their loved ones were receiving.

## Study

These patient and caregiver comments confirmed to Ms. Deyhle that the Hercules purchase decision was a success. However, as a Magnet facility, nursing administration needed objective data to be collected and analyzed before arriving at any final conclusions. As such, an IRB study was designed, approved and started 6 months after installation of the 26 systems. In this study, the objective was to compare patient and caregiver perceptions of safety, efficiency, and satisfaction utilizing The Hercules Patient Repositioner, versus a control group of a similar care area where Hercules was not available.

For the patient's questionnaire, the IRB's Principal Investigator asked patients 14 questions as part of administrative rounding. Caregivers, including RNs and PCAs took electronic surveys that included 29 items. Questions included topics regarding the safety of repositioning techniques used, the number of caregivers required to manually boost patients, the amount of time required and the acceptable amount of time required to boost patients and satisfaction questions regarding patient comfort, convenience, privacy, desirability and dignity. When the survey results were tabulated, almost 90 patients and over 60 caregivers had participated.

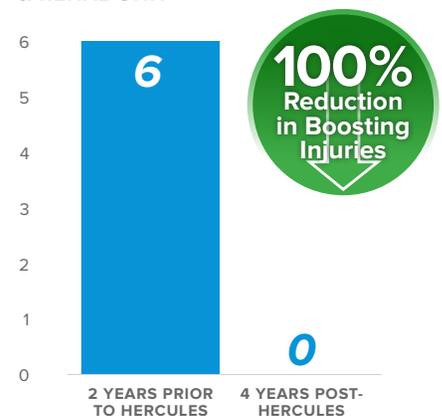
"The success of Hercules was a significant component in The Christ Hospital's Magnet submission and eventual recognition in 2015."

Julie Holt  
Chief Nursing Officer,  
The Christ Hospital

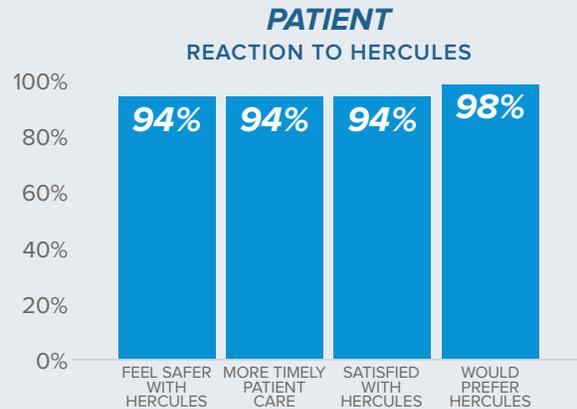
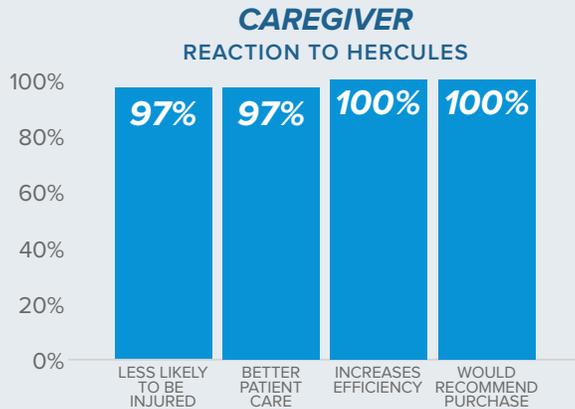


## CAREGIVER INJURIES FROM REPOSITIONING

26 BED KIDNEY TRANSPLANT & RENAL UNIT



## Survey Highlights



### CAREGIVER FINDINGS

- 97% agree or strongly agree that they feel safer and are less likely to be injured with Hercules
- 97% agree or strongly agree that their patients are cared for in a timely manner with Hercules
- 100% agree or strongly agree they save time when repositioning with Hercules
- 100% of caregivers are very satisfied with Hercules and would recommend its purchase

### PATIENT FINDINGS

- 94% feel Hercules is safer
- 94% agree or strongly agree boosting occurs more timely with Hercules
- 94% are satisfied or very satisfied with Hercules
- 98% would recommend Hercules over traditional boosting (such as lifts & slide sheets)

### CONCLUSIONS

- Hercules is perceived as a safer and more efficient method of boosting patients by both caregivers and patients
- Hercules is more desirable than manual boosting by both caregivers and patients
- Overall satisfaction with Hercules is extremely high for both caregivers and patients

### LONG TERM OUTCOMES

*(4 years post-Hercules installation)*

- **There have been no reported injuries associated with patient boosting since Hercules was installed**
- **There have been no HAPIs reported since Hercules installation**

## Conclusion

Nursing administration was very pleased with the survey outcomes and felt that the results were perfectly aligned with their ANCC Magnet initiatives. Julie Holt, Chief Nursing Officer, said, “The success of Hercules was a significant component in The Christ Hospital’s Magnet submission and eventual recognition in 2015.” Results of this study were also shared with others at a podium presentation at the ANCC National Magnet Conference in October later that year.

To summarize the hospital’s experience with Hercules, Ms. Holt said, “For over 125 years, The Christ Hospital has been a leader in transforming care across the region by providing exceptional care. Implementing Hercules in strategic areas throughout our facility is a top priority as we strive to continue our mission to improve the health of our community and to create patient value by providing the best outcomes and the finest patient experiences.”

**“I have never seen a product provide more value than Hercules! My nurses are more efficient, injury-free and morale has never been higher.”**

**Shelly Deyhle | Clinical Nurse Manager,  
The Christ Hospital**

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MN-0049-REV3 7-18

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