



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Marketing Department**

Belleville, IL 62220
618/234/2120 Ext. 1270
Fax: 618/222/4748

From: Kelly Barbeau
Marketing Support Specialist

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: St. Elizabeth's Hospital introduces new technology to increase comfort and safety for surgery patients.
Belleville, IL

Belleville, IL - A survey of over 600 operating rooms indicated fear of infection and level of comfort as important factors to patients entering the hospital for surgery. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is addressing both factors with one product, the Bair Paws Patient Adjustable Warming System or use before, during and after surgeries to address the safety and comfort of patients.

The Bair Paws system is a single-use gown that offers active, patient-adjustable warming capabilities during pre-op stages, in the operating room, and after surgery has been completed. Patient benefits include a higher degree of comfort before and after surgery, and a lowered risk of infection during the recovery stage.

"Each patient's safety and satisfaction is very important to us and the Bair Paws system will make the pre and post surgical experience a pleasant one," said Judy Patterson RN, MHA, CNOR, Director of Surgical Services at St. Elizabeth's. "Additionally, the therapeutic effects of warming patients before, during, and after surgery results in improved post-operative outcomes."

Prewarming patients prior to surgery can reduce core temperature drop during procedures by "banking" heat. Research shows that in the first 60 minutes of anesthesia, unwarmed surgical patients can lose up to 1.6° C. Following induction of anesthesia, dilation of the

blood vessels again increases blood flow. The warmer periphery limits the blood's rate of cooling and allows the blood to return to the core at a higher temperature.

Core temperatures outside the normal range pose a risk in all patients undergoing surgery. The forced air in the Bair Paws system creates a positive pressure atmosphere around the patient to deter infection. Each patient can also individually control their temperature if additional warmth is needed. This encourages a patient's active involvement in their own care and safety.

The Bair Paws wrap-around coverage in a soft, thick material also addresses the modesty needs of recovering patients. No more flimsy, open-back gowns for surgery patients who often need additional warmth to promote healing. Each patient receives a single-use gown and non-skid booties to warm feet.

By integrating the Bair Paws system, St. Elizabeth's Hospital is also participating in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's **5 Million Lives Campaign** to dramatically reduce incidents of medical harm in U.S. hospitals .

Other links:

Bairpaws.com

IHI.org/IIII/Programs/Campaign/

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Belleville, IL, is a 506-bed acute care medical facility featuring a newly renovated 16-suite surgery center including open-heart suites and an outpatient surgery center featuring 26 private rooms. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Today, we continue the mission of our founding sisters: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. We maintain a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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