

# The Value of SteriBump®

**Facility:** University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics

**Product:** SteriBump® and SuperBump®

**Application:** Orthopedic, Vascular, Pediatric, and General  
Surgical Positioning



Innovative  
Medical  
Products™

**SteriBump®**  
STERILE SURGICAL BUMP

**SuperBump®**  
WEIGHTED STERILE SURGICAL BUMP

## A New Way Forward for Orthopedic Positioning

At the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, surgical teams operate across a vast and complex network of operating rooms: 36 at the Iowa City main campus, 12 at their Orthopedic Hospital, 8 at the Children's Hospital, and another 12 at the Ambulatory Surgery Center. Supporting them is a robust sterile processing operation split between onsite and offsite locations.

In 2019, Haley Kacena stepped into a new role as O.R. Liaison, charged with strengthening the relationship between the operating room and SPD. What began as a broad initiative to align workflows quickly revealed a significant pain point: an outdated, labor-heavy process for creating sterile linen “bumps” used to support patient limbs during surgery.

## The Hidden Cost of Linen Bumps

Each month, the hospital produced more than 400 sterile linen bumps, handmade by two full-time SPD staff. The process involved delinting each linen with a lint roller, folding the bumps in a surgeon-preferred method, inserting a sterility indicator, and wrapping each in blue tray wrap before sending them offsite for sterilization. Because AAMI standards require linens to be sterilized separately from medical instruments, this created inefficiencies and increased turnaround times.

Even with this meticulous workflow, contamination was still an issue. Hairs and debris occasionally slipped through, making it clear the system, though well-intentioned, was far from foolproof. The labor burden, risk to patients, and environmental toll of transporting linen back and forth added up to one conclusion: something had to change.

## The Search for a Better Solution

Haley began exploring alternatives to linen positioning aids but was unimpressed by most of what she found. Foam options on the market often collapsed under pressure or shed particles, negating any potential benefits. This changed when an IMP representative introduced her to SteriBump, a sterile, pre-packaged foam positioning aid, and its weighted counterpart, SuperBump.

The difference in quality was immediately clear. Unlike other foam products, SteriBump and SuperBump maintained their shape, offered strong support, and came sterile out of the package, eliminating the need for SPD involvement. Haley saw an opportunity not only to improve efficiency but to enhance patient safety and reduce infection risk.



## Linen Bump Workflow VS SteriBump & SuperBump



### Making the Switch

Despite the clear benefits, change did not happen overnight. Haley knew for the transition to succeed, she needed buy-in from both the O.R. staff and surgeons. Fortunately, there was already growing frustration with the linen process, and when staff learned linen would eventually be phased out, they were more willing to embrace a reliable alternative.

By framing the change as part of a larger move toward safer, more modern practices, Haley positioned SteriBump and SuperBump as not just replacements but upgrades. Their adoption soon followed.

### Everyday Impact

Today, Haley is now the Nurse Manager of Orthopedics, while SteriBump and SuperBump are standard positioning tools across orthopedic procedures at the University of Iowa, including total joint replacements, trauma cases, and hand, foot, and ankle surgeries. The surgical bumps consistent performance has streamlined surgical prep, improved positioning accuracy, and, most importantly, removed an infection-prone, labor-intensive process from SPD's workflow.

Eliminating linen bumps freed up valuable staff time and reduced environmental waste by cutting out unnecessary sterilization cycles and blue wrap usage. While Haley did not initially need to bring the change to Infection Prevention, once implemented, the benefits were obvious and widely supported.

### A Safer, Smarter Standard

What started as a small operational inefficiency turned out to be a broader opportunity to improve surgical safety, reduce workload, and modernize patient care. For Haley and her team, SteriBump and SuperBump were not just convenient but essential.



“Saving time and resources in SPD was great, but providing a safe alternative to linen bumps turned out to be the best outcome.”

— Haley Kacena, Nurse Manager of Orthopedics