Patient Safety Advisory

Veterans Health Administration Warning System
Published by VA Central Office

AD07-01 January 8, 2007

Item:	Gemini PC series infusion pumps manufactured by Alaris, formerly IMED.
Specific Incident:	A VA medical facility reported a Gemini PC series infusion pump exhibiting free flow while connected to a patient. Upon examination it was discovered that the free-flow protection latch was broken. Discussions with other VA medical facilities confirm that the free-flow protection latch on the Gemini PC series infusion pump is prone to breaking and therefore commonly inspected before each use.
Recommendations:	1. DO NOT use medication pumps, or other medical devices that are in need of repair. 2. As standard practice, operators of medical devices should inspect and conduct operational checks consistent with manufacturer recommendations on all medical devices before use. If the device is found to be in need of repair, it should be labeled as defective, removed from service, and sent to biomedical engineering for service. 3. For sites using the Gemini PC series referred to in this Advisory, include inspection of the free-flow protection latch in maintenance and operational checks. A sample inspection protocol developed by a VA medical facility is attached to this Advisory as Attachment 1. 4. Assure that there are an adequate number of pumps available to adjust for peak utilizations and/or maintenance cycles.
Source:	VA medical facility and VA Center for Engineering and Occupational Safety & Health (CEOSH)
Contact:	Paul Sherman, CEOSH at (314)-543-6700

Attachment 1

Free Flow Protection and Infusion Pump Safety

Before operating Gemini PC series infusion pump, check the following:

a) Free-flow protection latch is intact and operates normally ***(see 1 below***). The latch should be able to move smoothly from its 90° angle 'home' position when a small force is applied, and return to 'home' when the force is removed. If this latch does not operate normally there is an increased risk for a free flow event to occur.
b) Casing around IV clip, air in-line detector, and channel door are intact ***(see 2 below)***
c) Infusion pump cord and plug insulation are intact and no wires are exposed. ***(see 3 below***)

Do not operate pump if any problems are observed. Clearly label the device as defective, remove it from service, and send it to Biomedical Engineering for repair. Contact SPD for a suitable replacement.