

Monthly Safety Notice

September 2019

National Baromedical Services, Inc.

Christmas Tree Infection Control

Background

For decades, we have used plastic yellow or green "Christmas tree" type gas adaptors in our hyperbaric chambers in order to employ patient air breaks to connect tubing to a non-rebreather mask. We have since learned this adaptor is considered single-patient use unless marked otherwise or labeled reusable on its packaging.

The Issue

The Joint Commission has released its top 10 challenging standards through the first half of 2019 for accredited ambulatory healthcare organizations. High on the list are multiple infection control standards.

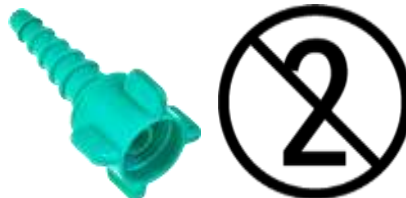
These are requirements identified most frequently as "not compliant" during surveys and reviews from January through June 2019.

For ambulatory healthcare organizations, infection control standards take two of the top three spots on the list. **IC.02.02.01** (The organization reduces the risk of infections associated with medical equipment, devices and supplies.) is first with a reported 60% non-compliance. Coming in third is **IC.02.01.01** (The organization implements infection prevention and control activities.) with 52% non-compliance.

Bottom Line

If your department uses "Christmas tree" adapters, make sure you are not reusing single-use versions.

For these and all devices, if packaging states "single patient use" or "single-use only" or has the number 2 circled with a strike through it, you must not reuse and will discard/change the device between patients.



If your facility uses the metal, reusable version of the Christmas tree adapter, ensure that you have specific disinfection instructions and accountability for cleaning between patients.

Here is an example of what the manufacturer Precision Medical provides in their statement and see attached letter: *Reusable metal oxygen or air Christmas trees can be wiped down like the flowmeter. Quaternary cleaner wipes, Hypo-Chloride wipes and PDI wipes are acceptable for disinfection.*

We recommend **part number 0159** to replace plastic fittings. When ordering, consider not just the number of chambers in operation but also wall gas sources and portable E gas tanks within your unit.

The alternative is to use a new plastic Christmas tree for each patient use.



For hyperbaric departments outfitted with newer Sechrist chambers that already come with metal airbreak fittings, ensure you employ an infection control process to disinfect them after each patient use. See fitting examples below:



Reference

The Joint Commission – Infection Control

IC.02.02.01 – The organization reduces the risk of infections associated with medical equipment, devices and supplies.

Compliance tips:

- Review the manufacturers' guidelines for disinfectant/cleaning products, and operation of equipment such as the ultrasonic cleaner and sterilizer.
- Ensure all staff receive education and ongoing competency assessment for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization processes, and required quality control activities. Periodically review related quality control logs to monitor compliance.
- Evaluate your clean/dirty workflow, and processes for storage of "clean" vs "dirty" items.
- Review your sterilization processes—are biological indicators utilized properly? Are all required metrics such as sterilizer cycle time, temp & pressure, captured and documented?
- Conduct spot checks of stored sterilized instruments-check hinged instruments, storage, peel pack prep and integrity.
- Observe transport of dirty instruments to ensure they are kept moist to decrease adherence of bioburden.
- Assess your processes for adherence to manufacturer's instructions for use, evidence-based guidelines and organizational policy.

Attachments



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Northampton, PA 18067
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Website: www.precisionmedical.com

February 17, 2017

*Precision Medical, Inc. and Medical Fittings
300 Held Drive
Northampton, PA 18067*

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to state our tubing nipple with chain 0154(C)/0158(C)/0159(C) is not disposable nor is it intended as single patient use.

The chain is made of stainless steel and the tubing nipple and nut is made of nickel plated brass. These materials are durable medical fittings and are not meant as single patient items and can be cleaned and wiped down as are the flowmeters these devices are attached and used with.

There is no label on any of the packaging to indicate that they are intended to be disposable or used for a single patient.

Reusable tubing nipples are durable if sterile processing is indicated (with the tubing nipple removed from the flowmeter and the "O" ring removed from the tubing nipple).

Reusable Tubing nipples are intended to be attached to a flowmeter (oxygen or air) and can be wiped down like the flowmeter. This includes Quaternary cleaner wipes, Hypo-Chloride wipes. PDI wipes are acceptable for disinfection use. Soap and water is also appropriate for cleaning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Brown RRT-NPS". The signature is written in a cursive style.

*Andy Brown RRT-NPS
Director Global Hospital Sales
Precision Medical, Inc.*

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Tubing Nipples

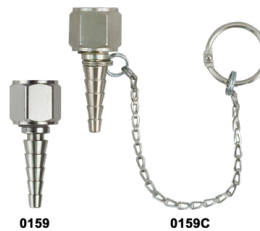
Tubing Nipples

Reusable Tubing Nipple.

It's infection control Friendly.

Patient Safety Conscious

Durable Multi-Use.



[0159/0159C Tubing Nipple Statement](#)

Method of Cleaning

Part Number	Autoclave	Ethylene Oxide	Chlorine Dioxide	Hydrogen Peroxide	Gamma Ray	Electron Beam	Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide (VHP)	Quaternary Cleaners	Sodium Hypochlorite "Bleach Solutions"
0154/0154C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0158/0158C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0159/0159C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0115	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

* Please Remove O-Ring for Autoclaving *

* Clean all Tubing Nipples after each patient use *

 Hand Tight Tubing Nipple	Oxygen Oxygen with Chain	0154 0154c
 Wing Nut Tubing Nipple	Oxygen Oxygen with Chain	0158 0158C
 Hex Nut Tubing Nipple	Oxygen Oxygen with Chain	0159 0159C
 Disposable Tubing Nipple	Clear Yellow Black White Green	0119 0120 0121 0122 0124 *Note Sold in Packs of 25 and 50* Add -25 or -50 at end of Part Number for those quantities
 Straight	Straight	9073



Chain Ring Assembly

6" Chain with Closed Ring
6" Chain with Open Ring

8004
8005

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