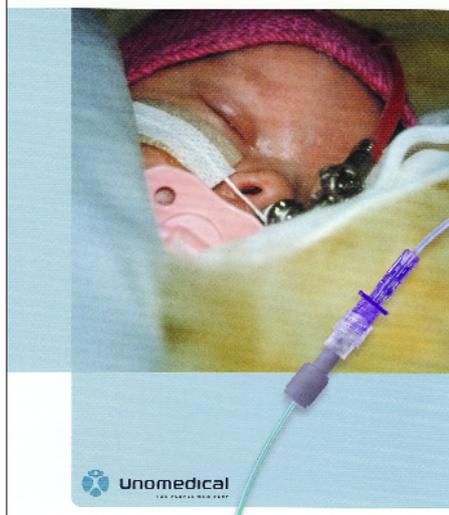


Feeding with Confidence



Feeding tubes meet NPSA recommendations

The Hospital Division of Unomedical provides a range of consumables for OR, critical care and cardiology. Advanced Unomedical enteral feeding tubes and connecting lines are available with specific colour coded connectors for both, so meeting the new National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) guidelines on enteral feeding devices.

A patient safety alert notice of March 2007 (NPSA/2007/19) drew attention to the latest advice on design, supply and use of enteral feeding systems. The three main provisions within the first section are:

- Systems should not contain ports that can be connected to intravenous syringes or that have end connectors that can be connected to IV or other parenteral lines.
- Enteral feeding systems should be labelled to indicate the route of administration.
- Three way taps and syringe tip adaptors should not be used in these systems because connection design safeguards can be bypassed.

Unomedical's Luer Lock feeding tubes have been added to the NHS supply chain catalogue along with the standard connecting tubes. This means that, regardless of the type of enteral feed syringe used, Unomedical is able to supply the correct phthalate-free feeding tube.

Migration of plasticiser is significantly reduced, so the soft and flexible tubes do not need to be changed so often.

For details and a leaflet 'Feeding with Confidence' telephone 01527 587700, or visit www.unomedical.co.uk

Pioneering wound care management

ActiFormCool from Activa Healthcare is a gentle method of dressing extravasation wounds, making it ideal to use on neonates, whose friable, immature skin makes most adult wound dressings unsuitable.

The dressing is being used increasingly after two case studies concluded that, when used in combination with antibiotics and ActiWrap (a soft latex-free bandage that holds the dressing in place), it is an effective and atraumatic wound management option for premature babies.

Trudie Young, a lecturer in tissue viability who led an award-winning case study on the use of ActiFormCool on neonates, says: "This is an important innovation as there are very few wound management products appropriate for this vulnerable group, so treatment options are limited and there is a clinical need for a product like ActiFormCool."

The dressings use new ionic sheet hydrogel technology to respond to changes in wound moisture levels by dynamically changing water donation/absorption



properties. Keeping the wound at optimum moisture levels helps rapid healing.

The dressing easily conforms around small extremities and can provide instant and continued pain relief without analgesics.

ActiFormCool can provide parents with a simple method of dressing their newborn's wounds when they go home.

References

1. Tobin, Corene. Managing an extravasation wound in a premature infant. *Wounds UK*, 2007; 3:1.
2. Young, Trudie. Award: Innovations in new technology second generation hydrogels, sponsored by Activa.

Tel: 08450 606 707 or visit www.activahealthcare.co.uk.

Enhancements for Newborn Hearing Screening Programme

The NHS Newborn Hearing Screening programme is to benefit from further enhancements to its online information and performance management system, eScreener Plus (eSP). Developed and supported by healthcare information provider Northgate Information Solutions working with InterSystems, eSP has helped in the screening of more than two million babies for hearing impairment since its launch.

Instead of manually importing data or making duplicate entries, data will feed directly to the eSP from the 2,400 pieces of hearing test equipment at 182 trusts. This will save time, lead to improved data quality and simplify processes, helping to continuously improve the service.

Andy Gordon-Jones, Healthcare Director at Northgate Information Solutions, says: "Under the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, hearing impairment and deafness can now be identified in children within the first few



months of birth rather than at three years of age, enabling early intervention and support. The improvements we are delivering to eSP will support the provision of an efficient and effective screening process, responsive to the needs of families."

Tel: +44 (0)870 755 2632 or visit www.northgate-is.com/