

From Around the Network

Judith R. Fischer, IVUN Information Specialist, info@ventusers.org



Forma™ Full Face Mask

New Products

Forma™ Full Face Mask from Fisher & Paykel Healthcare features the FlexiFoam™ Cushion that adjusts to a range of facial/nasal contours and an under-chin design to maintain a good seal. Available in four sizes. www.fphcare.com

Sil. Flex™ Stoma Pad from B & B Medical Technologies provides a silicone cushion between the flange of the tracheostomy tube and the stoma site. It can help reduce irritation of the skin around the stoma. Available in three sizes. Latex-free and easily cleaned. www.BandB-Medical.com



Sil. Flex™ Stoma Pad



Sleep Comfort Care Pad

Sleep Comfort Care Pad, designed by CHI-SAN LLC, acts as a barrier between a facial/nasal mask and the skin. It helps prevent skin breakdown and facial sores. Made of a polymer gel, silicone and latex-free, it is available in two sizes. www.sleepcomfortcaresystem.com

Product Recall

The FDA issued a Class I recall in October of single-patient use manual pulmonary resuscitators (MPR) manufactured by ConvaTec (Unomedical, Inc.) between July 2002 through March 2008. The units with clear or transparent rings and those with no visible ring are recalled. Units with a blue retention ring are not affected by the recall. Class 1 recalls are the most serious type of recall and involve situations in which there is a reasonable probability that use of these products will cause serious injury or death.

The FDA maintains a list of medical device recalls and safety alerts, as well as information on 510(k) clearances. For 510(k) clearance, device manufacturers must register their intent to market a medical device at least 90 days in advance. This allows the FDA to determine whether the device is equivalent to a device already placed into one of the three classification categories. Thus, “new” devices (not in commercial distribution prior to May 28, 1976) that have not been classified can be properly identified. www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/default.htm

Product Discontinuation

Philips Respironics announced that it is discontinuing the manufacture of the PLV®-100, PLV®-102b and PLV®-102, effective December 31, 2009. The company will provide rental units, service, replacement parts and technical support through December 31, 2014. However, repairs will be subject to the availability of parts from suppliers. Manufacturing and service warranties currently in effect will be honored.

Business News

Cardinal Health announced the spinoff of CareFusion (and its ventilatory product lines: Pulmonetic's LTV® series, TBird® Legacy, Tiara Medical) as a separate company in July. www.carefusion.com

Frogbreathing (glossopharyngeal breathing) Resources

Gary McPherson, respiratory polio survivor and frogbreathing pro, demonstrates. www.garymcperson.com

The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre, online education on lung volume recruitment and frogbreathing. www.irrd.ca/education/slide.asp?RefName=e2r4&slideid=60

Research Study on Quality of Life in ALS

Researchers at Penn State College of Medicine are seeking people with ALS for a research study to better understand the quality of life and problem-solving skills of people with ALS who attend multidisciplinary clinics versus those who do not. Participants will complete a questionnaire that asks questions about physical health status, quality of life, social problem-solving skills, and use of medical services for care of ALS. Survey responses are confidential.

To access the online questionnaire, go to the Penn State Hershey ALS Clinic website – www.pennstatehershey.org/als – and click on the link “ALS Patients: Click here to participate in a research survey.”

To request a paper copy of the questionnaire, contact the study coordinator, Beth Stephens, hstephens1@psu.edu. Zachary Simmons, MD, Department of Neurology, Penn State College of Medicine, is study director.

Mouthpiece Ventilation Resources

“My Experience with Setting up Day-time Ventilation” by Luke Melchior in *Ventilator-Assisted Living* (Fall 2009, Vol. 23, No. 3) should have included the following web resources:

Snap-Loc, the jointed tubing and connectors, www.cedarberg.com

Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program (PROP), www.bcits.org

Northwest Assisted Breathing Center, Josh Benditt, MD, and Louis Boitano, RRT, University of Washington, www.uwv.org/programs. Click on Program Library, then click on Programs by Title, and scroll down to Noninvasive Assisted Breathing.

Disaster Planning

Are you prepared in the event of a disaster? If you had to leave your home, where would you go and what would you take? Websites that can help you plan ahead: www.citizencorps.gov and www.ready.gov. “Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs,” a publication from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is online: www.fema.gov/pdf/Library/pfd_all.pdf. ▲