

# Preventing Tubing and Luer Misconnections

## Tips for Health Care Providers

### Health Care Providers

ACT to prevent tubing misconnections! To help reduce risk to patients, consider the following strategies, based on recommendations from The Joint Commission and ECRI Institute.

#### Assess equipment

- Assess and clearly label each device, including low-risk devices and high-risk catheters

#### Communicate

- Ensure good communication between health care staff during patient transfer
- Inform non-clinical staff, patients, families, and caregivers they must get help from clinical staff whenever there is a real or perceived need to connect or disconnect devices or tubing

#### Trace

- Trace a tube from the patient to the point of origin prior to connecting any new devices or replacing old ones
- Vigilantly check and recheck Luers to ensure proper connections prior to each use

### Clinical Managers

Risk managers, nurse managers, clinical educators, etc. consider taking the following steps to help prevent misconnections:

- Tell clinicians, patients, and caregivers in home-based or ambulatory care settings when new devices are intended for use in the health care facility or home health agencies
- Emphasize the risk of tubing and catheter misconnections in orientation and training curricula

### Health Care Facilities

ECRI Institute recommends creating a multidisciplinary task force—with staff from nursing, risk management, clinical engineering, and purchasing—to identify potential misconnections hazards and develop strategies for combating them. Consider the following actions to help prevent misconnections:

- During initial use, check new devices and equipment to identify potential misconnections and take immediate corrective actions, if needed
- Report adverse events and near misses, following your facility protocol
- Report any issues to the FDA through its MedWatch reporting system
- Health care personnel employed by facilities that are subject to FDA's user facility reporting requirements should follow the reporting procedures established by their facilities

#### **Tubing with Luer Connector**

*Photo Courtesy of Beaumont Hospitals*

