

“Premature Infants Safer Because Of New Feeding System,” Case Study Now Accessible At PublicRelationsNewsroom.com

“Premature Infants Safer Because Of New Feeding System,” a case study from Premier, Inc., and its member hospitals, in collaboration with Baxa Corporation and VIASYS MedSystems, is now accessible at PublicRelationsNewsroom.com. According to the case, thanks to the collaboration, tiny infants receiving nutrition through feeding tubes now face far less danger from the risk of IV lines and feeding tubes being accidentally connected.

Englewood, CO, May 3, 2007 -- “Premature Infants Safer Because Of New Feeding System,” a case study from Premier, Inc., and its member hospitals, in collaboration with Baxa Corporation and VIASYS MedSystems (a subsidiary of VIASYS Healthcare, Inc.), is now accessible at PublicRelationsNewsroom.com. The announcement is made by Katie Calabrese, neonatal nurse practitioner and Baxa product manager, who says, thanks to the collaboration, tiny infants receiving nutrition through feeding tubes now face far less danger from the risk of IV lines and feeding tubes being accidentally connected.

Access to a pdf of the case study, plus additional information about the tubing misconnections issue, is found at <http://publicrelationsnewsroom.com/wsn/page15.html>.

The new feeding system is the result of actions begun at a meeting of the Premier member Women and Children’s Committee (formerly the Pediatric Med/Surg Committee), contracted suppliers, and Premier’s Safety Institute in 2003. Debbie Campbell, RN, clinical manager of the pediatric ICU at Kosair Children’s Hospital, a part of Norton Healthcare in Louisville, KY, is a member of that committee.

Earlier this year, Baxa Corporation announced the launch of an educational campaign promoting the use of dedicated enteral systems for enteral feeding. This campaign highlights the risks to neonates when syringes, administration sets and other disposables with luer fittings are used for non-IV applications such as enteral feeding. While tubing misconnections can be deadly for any patient, neonates represent the highest risk population due to their small size and other health complications. Components of the campaign include a direct marketing piece, technical white papers, Web site, press releases, participation in industry lobbying efforts and the development of products that eliminate the risks.

Baxa Corporation’s educational campaign launch closely followed the January 2007 release by the Joint Commission of their proposed 2008 National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) for comment. The NPSG draft recommends that providers take steps to prevent catheter and tubing misconnections. In their Sentinel Event Alert released April 3, 2006, the Joint Commission stated that a standard luer syringe should “never” be used for oral medications or enteral feedings. Devices that incorporate a ‘forcing function’ – physically preventing misconnection – provide the best means for patient safety and compliance.

“Our goal was to raise awareness of the issue through the campaign and eliminate the risk with product improvements,” says Calabrese. “These improvements needed to completely remove the luer connections from this application.” Baxa Exacta-Med® Enteral Syringes, included in some of the campaign materials, are the first medication dispensers designed only for enteral feeding. They incorporate a unique dispenser tip that cannot connect to a luer device, and distinctive enteral marking, orange lettering and stripe to coordinate with dedicated enteral tube sets. When used with the VIASYS MedSystems CORFLO® Anti-IV Enteral Feeding System, the Baxa enteral syringes provide a dedicated system that prevents wrong-route administration of non-IV fluids. The microsite <http://www.baxa.com/helpthemgrow> features campaign information and support materials.

Since 1975, Baxa Corporation’s focus has been to provide technology for health-system pharmacies that improves patient safety, reduces the risk of medication errors and facilitates compliance to USP, Joint Commission and other regulatory requirements. Latex-free Baxa enteral syringes fit the needs of pharmacy, nursing and outpatient caregivers for safe medication administration. The wider tip design of the

Exacta-Med Dispensers was developed in cooperation with representatives and customers from premier children's hospitals worldwide.

About Baxa Corporation

Baxa, a customer-focused medical device company, provides innovative, solution-based technologies for fluid handling and delivery. Its systems and devices promote the safe and efficient preparation, handling, packaging, and administration of fluid medications. Privately held, Baxa Corporation has subsidiaries and sales offices in Canada and the United Kingdom; direct representation in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands; and distribution partners worldwide. Further information is available at <http://www.baxa.com>

About VIASYS Healthcare, Inc.

VIASYS Healthcare Inc. is a global, research-based medical technology company focused on respiratory, neurology, medical disposable and orthopedic products. VIASYS products are marketed under well-recognized trademarks including, among others, AVEA[®], BEAR[®], BIRD[®], CORFLO[®], CORPAK[®], CONTRAK[®], EME[®], GRASON-STADLER[®], JAEGER[™], LYRA[®], MEDELEC[®], MICROGAS[®], NAVIGATOR[®], NICOLET[®], NicoletOne[™], PULMONETIC[™], SENSORMEDICS[®], TECA[®], TECOMET[™], VELA[®] and VMAX[®]. VIASYS is headquartered in Conshohocken, PA, and its businesses are conducted through its Respiratory Care, NeuroCare, MedSystems and Orthopedics business units. More information can be found at <http://www.viasyshealthcare.com>.

About Premier, Inc.

Serving 1,700 hospitals and more than 45,000 other healthcare sites, Premier Inc. is the largest healthcare alliance in the United States dedicated to improving patient outcomes while safely reducing the cost of care. Owned by not-for-profit hospitals, Premier operates the nation's largest healthcare purchasing network, the most comprehensive repository of hospital clinical and financial information and one of the largest policy-holder owned, hospital professional liability risk-retention groups in healthcare. Premier's Safety Institute provides publicly available safety resources and tools to promote a safe healthcare delivery environment for patients, workers, and their communities. Headquartered in San Diego, Premier has offices in Charlotte, N.C. and Washington. For more information, visit <http://www.premierinc.com>

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