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NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Baxa Ltd Launches ZR® Pre-Filled Saline Flush Syringes

Baxa introduces new line of sterile, pre-filled saline syringes for safe and efficient flushing of IV lines. The ZR syringes meet NHS standards and promote best practice for catheter care.

Bracknell, UK – Baxa Ltd announces its launch of a new line of pre-filled saline IV syringes in the UK. Baxa Ltd, an organisation committed to increasing patient safety through specialty devices for the preparation and administration of liquid medication, is adding a range of pre-filled saline intravenous flush syringes for catheter care in UK health systems.

Baxa ZR sterile, pre-filled saline IV syringes provide a safe and effective alternative to flushes drawn from multi-dose vials or manual filled. ZR syringes provide ease of administration, convenience, reduction in the risk of errors, increased assurance of sterility, lower costs and less shelf-space than their alternatives, while promoting best practice in IV care.

Terry Aston, managing director of Baxa Ltd comments, “The time is right for pre-fills in the UK. Research and industry best practice widely acknowledges that the greater the number of procedures in preparation of medication, the greater the risk of cross-contamination. ZR pre-filled syringes reduce risk and are far more convenient to use.”

The new flush syringes are available as 10 mL and 5 mL units. Each syringe is clearly labelled in accordance with NPSA Alert 20¹, which aims to reduce liquid medication errors. Their clear syringe barrels assist visual inspection prior to use; a pull-off tip cap indicates whether the seal is broken and also prevents syringe re-use. Each ZR

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¹NIH. National Patient Safety Agency. Patient Safety Alert: Promoting Safer use of injectable medicines. No 20. March 2007.

syringe has a two-year shelf life. Expiry dates are clearly visible to nursing staff.

Nearly all in-patients require an intravenous solution at some point during their stay in hospital. According to a study by the *Infection Control Journal*, 8% of saline solutions manually prepared by nursing staff were contaminated by micro-organisms². Using typical methods, which involve drawing up a saline solution from an ampoule, cross contamination is a genuine risk. By contrast, the ZR syringes are prepared and packaged within a completely sterile environment, reducing the number of procedures and therefore the risk associated with manual saline solution preparation via a needle, syringe or pod.

By adopting pre-filled flush syringes, which are available without prescription, the number of stages for dose preparation are reduced, which leads to greater compliance with ANTT (Aseptic Non-Touch Technique), recommended by NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence)³. Cross contamination is a genuine risk in manual saline flush syringe preparation.

To date, the UK healthcare community has been relatively slow to adopt pre-filled syringes, yet they are widely used across Europe. With fear of contracting an infection high on the list of patients' concerns as they enter hospitals as day patients⁴ and with new guidance and compliance governing the administration of liquid and IV medication, it is expected that safer, more convenient, pre-filled syringes will become an everyday method for flushing IV lines.

²Calop J, Bosson JL, Croizé J, Laurent PE. Maintenance of peripheral and central intravenous infusion devices by 0.9 % sodium chloride with or without heparin as a potential source of catheter microbial contamination. *J. Hosp. Infection* 2000; 46:161-162

³Infection Control: Prevention of healthcare associated infections in Primary and Community Care (June 2003)

⁴http://www.bbc.co.uk:80/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2008/06_june/30/nhs.shtml - BBC survey on NHS for its 60th anniversary



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The product launch is a result of a distribution agreement between Baxa Corporation and Excelsior Medical Corporation, combining the two companies' experience, manufacturing expertise and distribution channels in the UK. For more information visit <http://www.baxa.com/zr>.

About Baxa Corporation

Baxa, a customer-focused medical device company, provides innovative, solution-based technologies for medication handling and delivery. Its systems and devices promote the safe and efficient preparation, handling, packaging, and administration of medications. Key products include the PadLock[®] Set Saver, Rapid-Fill[™] Automated Syringe Fillers, Exacta-Med[®] Oral Dispensers, MicroFuse[®] Syringe Infusers, Repeater[™] Pharmacy Pumps, and Exacta-Mix[™] Multi-Source Automated Compounders; used worldwide in hospitals and healthcare facilities. Privately held, Baxa Corporation has subsidiaries and sales offices in Canada and the United Kingdom; direct representation in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland; and distribution partners worldwide. Further information is available at www.baxa.com.

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