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Excelsior Medical's SwabCap to be Exhibited at APIC

Leading Infection Control Device Disinfects Needleless IV Connectors, Helps Meet Joint Commission Requirement

NEPTUNE, N.J. – [Excelsior Medical's SwabCap](#)™ disinfection cap for needleless IV connectors will be exhibited at the [2010 annual conference](#) of the [Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology](#) (APIC). Excelsior Medical's booth will also feature talks by nationally known infection control expert [Nancy Moureau](#), RN, BSN, CRNI, CPUI.

The widely published Moureau is founder of [PICC Excellence](#), a training, educational and consulting company. She will speak on “Disinfecting Needleless Connectors” on Monday, July 12 at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, July 13 at 11:00 a.m.

The Excelsior Medical booth is #1520 in the [Exhibit Hall](#). Visitors to the booth can enter a drawing for an [Apple iPad](#)™.

SwabCap™ is a simple twist-on device that disinfects swab-able luer access valves (needleless IV connectors) in between line accesses. The FDA-cleared device passively disinfects the valve top and threads while providing a physical barrier to contamination.

The cap's design and ease-of-use also help verify compliance with standard-of-care clinical protocols for cleaning luer access valves -- including the new (January 2010) [Joint Commission requirement](#). The commission now requires that applicant healthcare facilities have in place “a standardized protocol to disinfect catheter hubs and injection ports before accessing the ports.”

SwabCap disinfects luer access valves by bathing the valve's threads and top with 70% isopropyl alcohol. As the cap is twisted onto the threads, a foam pad inside the cap is compressed, releasing the alcohol. The twisting action and the patent pending thread cover design help focus the alcohol on the targeted areas, without activating the luer access valve.

The cap also acts as a physical barrier to touch and airborne contamination, lasting up to 96 hours under normal conditions if not removed.

SwabCap represents an important advancement in the standardization of valve disinfection that could help prevent potentially deadly catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBSIs). CRBSIs are among the most frequent and dangerous infections associated with medical care. These infections are often fatal, with an attributable mortality rate of 12% to 25%. Ensuring the disinfection and protection of luer access valves may play a crucial role in eliminating CRBSIs.

Compliance with clinical protocols for cleaning luer access valves is increasingly important to hospitals. Besides protecting patient safety, the protocols reduce hospitals' financial risk. CRBSIs cost an estimated \$34,000 to \$56,000 per incident to treat, according to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and also extend a patient's hospital stay by an average of seven days. Much of this cost is now falling on hospitals.

SwabCap is also available as part of SwabKIT, which packages a SwabCap disinfection cap with a 10 mL ZR™ Pre-filled saline flush syringe for greater healthcare institution efficiency. ZR Syringes uses Anti-Reflux technology designed to minimize syringe-generated reflux. Blood reflux is one of the causes of catheter occlusions, a complication of long-term catheter use. It can also lead to CRBSIs.

The APIC conference will take place July 11-15 at the [New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center](#) in New Orleans.

About Excelsior Medical Corporation

Excelsior Medical Corporation is one of the leading manufacturers of pre-filled catheter flush syringes. Formed in 1989, Excelsior manufactures, markets and sells pre-filled saline flush syringes, pre-filled heparin flush and lock syringes, and syringe pump systems to customers throughout the world. Excelsior, which also makes the new SwabCap and SwabKIT for disinfection and protection of IV access ports, is a privately held company with a primary focus on innovative catheter maintenance products that may reduce infection, medication errors and health care costs.

For more information, call toll-free 800-487-4276 or access www.excelsiormedical.com.

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