

Counting the cost of high priced consumables used in theatre

Sir,

Accurate coding of procedures during a patient's admission to hospital is essential for reimbursement through the payment by results system. However, some highly priced products do not form part of the standard tariffs and have to be coded separately using their generic rather than brand names. One such group of products is the fibrin tissue adhesives or fibrin sealants. These are commonly used in theatre to aid haemostasis. The authors conducted an audit to ascertain their use, coding and financial reimbursement.

The use of two products (Tisseel, Baxter UK Ltd, Berkshire, and Evicel, Ethicon/Johnson & Johnson Medical Ltd, Berkshire) was analysed between August 2015 and January 2016. Data were extracted from theatre records and operative notes. Coding of these products within the index admission was ascertained from the coding department.

Eighty two units of fibrin sealant were used during the 6-month period. Of these, 53 (64.6%) were recorded in the operative notes, but only as brand names. None of the 82 units were therefore coded by the coding department, meaning that their cost, approximately £37 151, was not reimbursed to the surgical department. The groups using the most units of fibrin sealant were hepatobiliary and vascular surgery.

This represents a significant loss of income as a result of poor understanding of documentation requirements and subsequent coding of fibrin sealants. This could be improved by educating users to document generic names rather than brand names. The authors reiterate that inaccurate documentation of high priced products used during procedures leads to poor coding and loss of income to trusts.

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Product news



Critical care product guide

Fukuda Denshi has published a 2015/16 critical care product guide, featuring their latest innovations in critical care patient monitoring.

The full colour product guide comes in a handy DL size, compact enough to fit in a pocket, and includes product information, images and specifications of the Fukuda Denshi range of critical care patient monitors, including:

- The DS-8900 central station monitor with 26" full HD display and multi-display configuration – 32 bedside monitors can be monitored on one screen
- The DS-7200 integrated flexible monitor with 12-lead ECG, respiration, SpO2, 2ch BP, NIBP and 2ch Temp monitoring
- The DS-8500 system with Fukuda Denshi's most intelligent user interface and modular design for a flexible and improved configuration.

Also featured in the product guide are Fukuda Denshi's range of ECG monitors, including their LX-7120 RESP digital transmitter and the LX-7230N RESP SpO2 transmitter.

To obtain a copy of the guide, contact Fukuda Denshi on 01483 728065 or email service@fukuda.co.uk.

www.fukuda.co.uk

New ISO 80369-6 small-bore connectors standard

Smiths Medical is preparing its customers following the publication of a new standard from the International Standards Organisation (ISO), regarding small-bore connectors, commonly referred to as Luer connectors.

The long-awaited publication of ISO 80369-6 will be known globally as NRFit to help end users and clinicians identify the correct product for relative neuraxial procedures.

The ISO standard now published globally will affect most current Luer connectors in the UK where a neuraxial connection is required. It has been developed following two high profile fatalities involving misconnections with a Luer connector.

Smiths Medical is committed to supporting health-care professionals who have responsibility for administering and supervising the use of the new design small-bore connectors – helping them get up to speed with the new international standards. The company is also helping educate health-care professionals in preparation for the introduction of new neuraxial-specific connectors.

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