

## SPINE SAFETY ALERT:

### **Information for Healthcare Professionals: B. Braun Heparin Sodium Injection Solutions – Recall Due to Heparin-like Contaminant**

According to MedWatch, B. Braun Medical Inc. was notified by its supplier, Scientific Protein Laboratories LLC (SPL) of a nationwide recall of Heparin Sodium USP active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). The voluntary recall affects 23 Finished Product lots manufactured and distributed by B. Braun Medical Inc. nationwide and to Canada. This product recall was initiated due to a notification received from SPL, disclosing that one lot of Heparin Sodium, USP API acquired by B. Braun has a heparin-like contaminant. FDA has received reports of serious injuries and/or deaths in patients who have been administered Heparin injectable products of other companies containing this contaminant. As indicated in the notification issued by the supplier SPL, typical symptoms include anaphylactic-like reactions such as low blood pressure, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.

Read the complete MedWatch 2008 safety summary, including a link to the Press Release, at:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#BBraun>

The North American Spine Society is committed to quality patient care through promotion of patient safety and prevention of medical errors. NASS monitors a variety of government and other resources for patient safety related notices that may be useful to our members. Information from these notices is also archived on the NASS website at

<http://www.spine.org/Pages/PracticePolicy/ClinicalCare/SpineSafetyAlerts/Default.aspx>. This information is provided as a service for information and education only.