

SPINE SAFETY ALERT:

Information for Healthcare Professionals: Heparin and Normal Saline Pre-Filled Flushes- Nationwide Recall Because One Lot Was Contaminated With Bacteria

According to MedWatch, AM2 PAT, Inc., notified healthcare professionals and patients of a nationwide recall of all lots of both Heparin and Saline pre-filled flushes. These products are distributed under two brand names, Sierra Pre-Filled Inc and B. Braun. The products are sold in 3ml and 5ml sizes for Heparin and 3ml, 5ml, and 10ml sizes for Normal Saline. One lot of Heparin IV flush syringes (1003-02, Lot 070926H) was contaminated with *Sierratia marcescens* which has resulted in patient infections. This type of bacterial infection could present a serious adverse health consequence that could lead to life-threatening injuries and/or death. User facilities and consumers should stop using the product immediately, quarantine remaining inventory, and return the product to their respective distributor.

Read the complete 2008 MedWatch Safety Summary including a link to the Manufacturer's Recall Notice regarding this issue at:

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

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.