

# Safety Product Review

Use safety products to improve staff and patient safety

by Ron Stoker

Each year I have the opportunity of reviewing scores of new safety products, and in turn have the opportunity to share this information with readers. Read on for a brief glimpse into a number of safety products currently available.

## Qlicksmart Snapit Ampoule Opener

The Snapit was invented by a registered nurse in Rockhampton, QLD, Australia. Each year millions of glass ampoules are used. As indicated in *Managing Infection Control* in previous issues, cuts to healthcare workers and contamination of contents have been a safety concern when using glass ampoules. The Snapit helps prevent these issues (see Figure 1). The Snapit is made from durable, anodized aluminum, ensuring a once-only investment provides ongoing safety. It helps protect the hands and prevent accidental cuts. The Snapit is placed over the glass ampoule. While holding on to the base of the ampoule, place the Snapit Ampoule Opener so that the top of the glass ampoule is broken off. The opener holds the top of the glass ampoule until it can be placed over a sharps container. Then the extended lever pushes the glass top into the sharps container. The Snapit Ampoule Opener can be washed and reused.

For more information on this product, visit [www.qlicksmart.com/english/index.html?prdcc\\_info.htm](http://www.qlicksmart.com/english/index.html?prdcc_info.htm).

Figure 1.



## Qlicksmart CHECK CLIP

Each year more than 7,000 Americans die from medication errors.<sup>1</sup> These errors cost up to \$136 billion annually.<sup>2</sup> In a discussion about patient safety, Liam Donaldson, chair of the World Health Organization's World Alliance for Patient Safety, indicated that the risk of dying in an airplane is only one in 10 million, while the risk of dying in the hospital is only one in 300.<sup>3</sup> It is important, therefore, to use every available method to prevent medication errors.

The Qlicksmart Check Clip was invented by three paramedics in Gold Coast, QLD, Australia. The Check Clip is designed to reduce the thousands of medication-error related deaths and injuries across the globe each year. This little clip could save as many as 140 lives a year in the United States alone (see Figure 2).

Figure 2.



Simply clip the Check Clip onto the syringe, drawing up the drug, and without letting the ampoule leave your hand—sliding the ampoule to the top of the barbs of the Check Clip (the ampoule is now securely attached to the syringe). Drug/fluid can now be administered. This reduces the need for labels, as the entire drug details are on the ampoule that is attached to the syringe. The device also prevents accidental cuts from the glass ampoule. Often when the neck of an ampoule is snapped off, it leaves a very sharp edge that can cause serious cuts. The Check Clip covers the sharp edge of the ampoule when it is attached, preventing cuts to the user and the patient during drug administration. The Check Clip works with most syringes and ampoules on the market, including both Luer-Lock & Luer-Slip syringes (see Figure 3). A glass ampoule is attached to the Qlicksmart Check Clip that is attached to the syringe. This allows for visual cross checking of the drug/dose details.

For more information on this product, visit [www.qlicksmart.com/english/index.html?prdcc\\_info.htm](http://www.qlicksmart.com/english/index.html?prdcc_info.htm).

## References

1. J A Johnson, J L Bootman, "Drug-related morbidity and mortality and the economic impact of pharmaceutical care." *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* 54 (March 1, 1997) 554-558.
2. Institute of Medicine. *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System* (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2000).
3. Quote by Liam Donaldson, Chair of the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Alliance for Patient Safety. "Hospitals 'more dangerous' than air travel." Australian Broadcasting Corporation. November 2005.

**Figure 3.**



**QUICK-DRAIN™**

It has always a challenge to control liquid infectious waste. As regulations tighten and operating costs rise, it's important to find a safe, cost-effective solution that's affordable and provides minimal environmental impact.

The QUICK-DRAIN™ Systems provide engineering-controlled operation to safeguard your staff. In complete compliance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, these systems confine liquid infectious waste and isolate blood-borne pathogens to protect your staff, and substantially reduce the risk of exposure due to splashing and aerosolization. They also eliminate risks associated with solidifier chemical exposure (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4.**



The disposal of liquid infectious waste into the sanitary sewer system is not only legal, but logical. It reduces the cost of red bag disposal and eliminates the per-use cost of products like solidifiers. The draining of liquid infectious waste into the sanitary sewer system reduces staff time and the costs associated with exposure to contaminated waste. The Quick-Drain Systems protect the environment by reducing landfill waste and contamination. They safely and quickly drain liquid infectious waste into the sanitary sewer system in accordance with EPA, CDC and NIOSH guidelines.

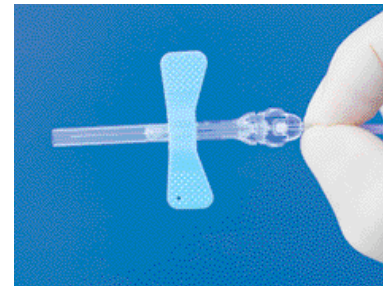
For more information on this safety, product please visit [www.bemishealthcare.com/products/quick-drain.php](http://www.bemishealthcare.com/products/quick-drain.php).

**VACUETTE® Safety Blood Collection Set**

The VACUETTE® SAFETY BLOOD COLLECTION SET improves safety for blood collection personnel as well as increasing patient protection. Even when dealing with patients with difficult vein conditions, this product is a safer alternative to other conventional blood collection sets; it aims at simplified handling and maximal flexibility. The vein puncture proceeds as normal, and blood flashback is clearly seen through the translucent shield.

However, following completion of the blood collection, the safety mechanism can be easily activated by pressing in both sides of the security lock (see Figure 5). The translucent needle shield is then pulled over the cannula until it is locked in place. An audible click indicates that the safety mechanism has been correctly activated. The cannula is completely isolated and securely locked into a closed

**Figure 5.**



system. The needlestick risk is reduced to an absolute minimum. There are three versions of the VACUETTE® Safety Blood Collection Set available:

- ▶ Standard version (without Luer adapter)—21 or 23 G
- ▶ Standard version (with Luer adapter)—21 or 23 G
- ▶ Version with Luer adapter + tube holder—21 or 23 G

For more information on this safety product, please visit [www.vacurette.com/engressource/navigation/2972.php](http://www.vacurette.com/engressource/navigation/2972.php).

If you would like to have your company's safety product reviewed for inclusion in future issues of *Managing Infection Control*, please e-mail the author at [info@ISIPS.org](mailto:info@ISIPS.org). ✚

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