February 24, 2010

SUBJECT: BD SAFE SAMPLE COLLECTION ARTICLE

To Whom it May Concern;

This letter addresses the statement that the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society has “accepted” the article “Incidence of Safe Sample Collection Procedures with the BacT/Alert™ Blood Culture System” (Allegheny Marketing Group and Emily Welsh.)¹

The “study” appears on the BD web site with “Article accepted by ISIPS” written in the top left corner. I was not aware that this “endorsement” was written on this article until just recently. I have asked BD to remove the ISIPS name from all marketing documents and to NOT use the ISIPS name or logo in connection with this article.

I would like to indicate that the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society was never involved nor participated in this study. Additionally, IF we had been involved in the study we would have made use of an appropriate control study for Vacutainer™ adapter compliance which is NOT listed in the study. Additionally, this article is very dated – it was written back in 2003. Today, seven years later, safe sample collection procedures are mandatory and in compliance with the revised OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen standard more widespread.

As a matter of full disclosure, as part of the ISIPS Newsletter, articles written by other individuals and organizations that discuss sharps safety products are linked. I went back to the ISIPS archives and found that at one time there was a link on the ISIPS Newsletter to the article in question. After about a month with a link in the ISIPS Newsletter, the link was removed. ISIPS does NOT in fact endorse the article or the data contained within the article.

Years ago I promoted blood collection holders that could be reused. That practice is no longer acceptable. OSHA requires that blood collection holders and needles be disposed of safely in a sharps disposal container as one unit. ISIPS, therefore, promotes the use of such safety adapters.

In addition, ISIPS does not advocate the use of one company’s products over another. According to the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard each healthcare facility has the mandate to conduct their own evaluation of products to determine the safety and

¹ www.bd.com/ds/technicalCenter/whitepapers/lr848.pdf last viewed February 24, 2010
efficacy of the product and to document that evaluation and implementation of safety products in their Exposure Control Plan that must be revised at least annually. ISIPS simply promotes safety products and provides evaluation forms to assist healthcare workers in making this determination.

As an advocate for healthcare worker safety it is the mission of ISIPS to educate all healthcare workers on safety. It has been an OSHA strategy/standard to eliminate glass from the healthcare work environment for many years. OSHA has defined contaminated sharps as “any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin.” OSHA includes broken glass in that definition. Glass bottles used in blood culture systems can break compromising the integrity of the blood specimen and exposing healthcare workers to potentially infectious blood-borne pathogens.

ISIPS, therefore, supports the use of plastic blood collection containers, including blood culture bottles. ISIPS does not promote the use of potentially dangerous glass bottles over plastic when a safer alternative is available.

Sincerely,

Ron Stoker
Executive Director
International Sharps Injury Prevention Society
www.isips.org

Vacutainer is trademarked by BD

Disclosure: Ron Stoker is a member of the bioMerieux speaker bureau and is engaged in consulting work on behalf of the company. BioMerieux is a member, and Becton Dickinson a past member of ISIPS.