

SITUATION

Missouri hospitals are reporting a shortage of Welch Allyn blood pressure cuffs, specifically the FlexiPort reusable/disposable models, which is impacting the ability to effectively monitor patients' blood pressure in various departments. This shortage also may impact various infection prevention practices.

As of Nov. 11, 2024, Welch Allyn has increased the supply allocation of its blood pressure cuffs to 40% and has resumed manufacturing.

BACKGROUND

Welch Allyn experienced a temporary production pause due to a raw material shortage. The shortage was caused by a halt in U.S. imports of raw materials into Mexico.

ASSESSMENT

The disruption in supply of these items may impact patient care. A current inventory and use rate of these items can clarify which conservation strategies will prove most helpful.

- Identify which care areas utilize this equipment and those with capabilities for alternative devices with minimal impact to patient care and work flow.
- Identify alternative vendors.
- Identify interchangeable cuffs by contacting your distributor directly.
- Evaluate the potential of reusing the FlexiPort product when clinical care permits.

RECOMENDATIONS

Conservation Strategies

Implement a cleaning protocol for the blood pressure cuffs using the cleaning instructions provided in the Instructions for Use.

- The term "disposable" in reference to Welch Allyn blood pressure cuffs is a model designator only and not meant to imply single patient use.
- Cleaning [instructions](#) for the FlexiPort Soft and Vinyl Disposable Cuffs
- Cleaning [instructions](#) for the FlexiPort Reusable Cuffs

RESOURCES

Welch Allyn

- [10.23.24 Baxter Healthcare Corp Customer Letter](#)
- [FlexiPort Disposable Instructions for Use](#)

Vizient

- [Vizient Product Description Brief](#)



Missouri Hospital Association Supply Chain Shortages



Hospitals are asked to report current or anticipated supply chain shortages, disruptions or problems.

MHA is prepared to work proactively with member organizations to develop strategies that will prevent risk to patients. Should you have additional information to share or have questions please contact Keri Barclay, Manager of Clinical Preparedness at kbarclay@mhanet.com, or Kara Amann-Kale, Director of Hospital Preparedness Programs at kamann-kale@mhanet.com.