



07 July 2009

A patient **Safety Alert** advises of safety matters needing **immediate attention and mandatory action** to address high risk safety problems.

We recommend you inform:

- Chief Executives
- General Managers
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Biomedical Engineers
- Medical Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Nursing Directors
- Supply Managers
- Clinical Risk Managers
- Safety Managers

Welch Allyn Vital Signs Monitor – VSM 300

Background

Welch Allyn issued a safety alert on 18 June 2009 in regards to a number of reports of loss of audible alarms from users of the VSM300 vital signs monitor.

The monitor is used for monitoring non-invasive blood pressure, pulse rate, body temperature and blood oxygen saturation of adult, paediatric and neonatal patients.

Welch Allyn has identified the loss of audible alarm is due to damage to the electrical connection between the speaker voice coil and the signal terminal.

The loss of audible alarm will result in the possibility of a delay in awareness of an alarm condition for the following situations;

- Hypotension or hypertension
- Low blood oxygen content
- Low or high pulse rate
- Other alarm conditions relating to the loss of monitoring of a patient

If the audible alarm is lost the visual alarm will continue to function as intended. Please note other functions of the device are unaffected by the loss of audible tones.

The device can be checked during the normal power up cycle as two audible alarms should be emitted. If these tones do not sound, Welch Allyn advises that the device should not be connected to a patient.



Government
of South Australia
Department of Health

Safety Alert

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Issued by SA Department of Health, Quality and Safety Unit
Tel 08 8226 7454, Fax 08 8226 0725, <http://www.safetyandquality.sa.gov.au>



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Action Required by Health Services

Health facilities are required to report to the Department of Health on the following in relation to the Welch Allyn VSM300 vital signs monitors:

1. Does your health service use these monitors?
2. If yes, how many does your health service use?
3. Confirm that that your Biomedical Engineers have a process in place to check all affected monitors by July 13th.

Notification of Compliance

Safety Alert Broadcast System (SABS) Officers are to:

1. Confirm receipt of this alert by email at SABS@health.sa.gov.au by **09 July 2009**.
2. Report on Actions by **16 July 2009**.