A new design standard for medical tubing connectors is on its way including new connectors for enteral, neuraxial, and respiratory devices. Starting with enteral feeding and the new ENFit connector, application-specific standards will help ensure that connectors do not fit into ports other than the type for which they are intended, reducing the incidence of misconnections.

This is a global transition, starting in the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico, with the goal of completion in these markets by January, 2016. Every organization has a different process for implementing change, but all require a well-informed, properly prepared team.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>This is not intended to be a complete list, but use the STEPS below to get started:</th>
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| **S**  
Supplier communication  
- Familiarize yourself with all the product-specific changes  
- Understand anticipated timing and product availability for the transition  
- Obtain item number changes with a cross-walk from product with current connectors to new ENFit connector  
- Clarify return policies during transition |
| **T**  
Training  
- Identify timeline for product availability in the facility and communication channels  
- Reduce excess inventory and discourage stockpiling of existing products to prevent:  
  - delayed transition  
  - inability to administer therapy  
  - added carrying costs |
| **E**  
Education  
- Communicate importance of connector changes to enhance patient safety  
- Prepare supply chain staff to order new products with proper connectivity for:  
  - Administration/Feeding sets  
  - Feeding Tubes  
  - Syringes for bolus feeding, checking residuals, administering meds, and hydration  
- Direct product-specific questions to the manufacturer/supplier  
- Direct procedural questions to a multidisciplinary transition team |
| **P**  
Process  
- Assemble a multidisciplinary transition team including but not limited to clinicians (nursing, prescribers, pharmacy), supply chain, IT, risk managers, patient safety officers, biomedical engineers  
- Transition teams should fine-tune processes for new ENFit connectors  
- Evaluate current procedures and supply chain needs during transition |
| **S**  
Supply management  
- Manage enteral feeding device inventory to ensure proper connectivity throughout transition  
  - Reduce excess inventory of devices with current connectors  
  - Allow new ENFit Transition Connectors and ENFit feeding tubes to flow through inventory  
  - Avoid overstocking new enteral feeding products |
Enteral System Connector Changes

The new design standard impacts the entire enteral feeding system

SYRINGE (CURRENT)

Syringes to administer medicine, flush, hydrate, or bolus feed through enteral tubes will now require a precise enteral-specific fitment.

TRANSITION SET (TEMPORARY)

Allows fitment to current feeding port until new ENFit enteral feeding tubes are available.

FEEDING TUBE (CURRENT)

Changing from male—the stepped or Christmas tree connector—to the new ENFit female connector. The feeding tube port for the administration set will change from female to male.

FEEDING TUBE (FINAL)

CONNECTOR (FINAL)
[In place since 2012]

NUTRITION END