



VITALS

For Medical Transport Professionals

A Weekly Safety Newsletter

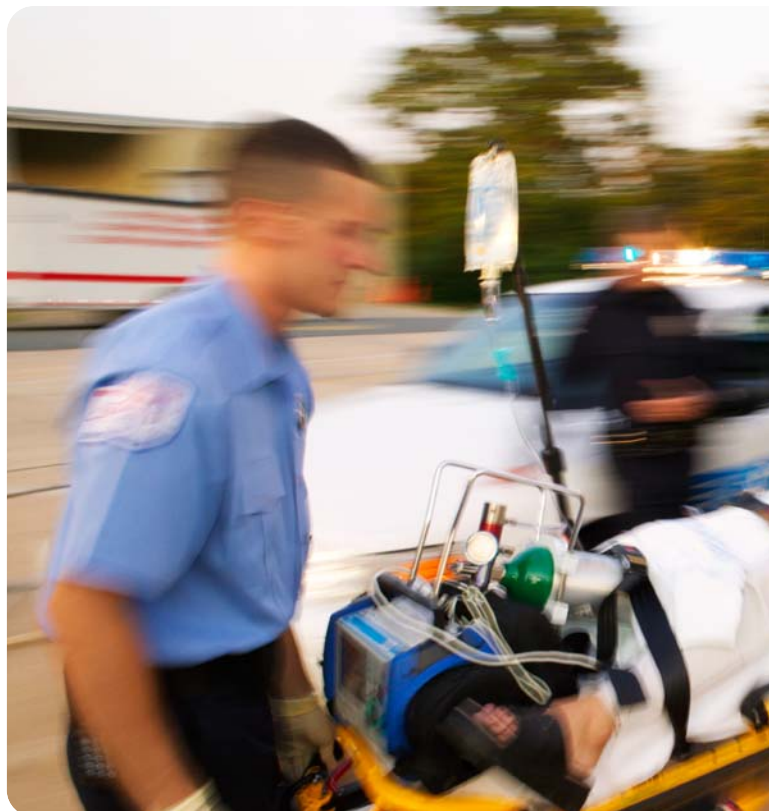
FDA Recalls For Products You Don't Use Might Still Be Important

Although most of you probably don't use Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), you may be involved with people that do. The FDA issued a Class 1 Recall for Welch Allyn 10 AEDs last fall. Remember that Class 1 Recalls are the most serious. They involve situations in which there is a reasonable probability that the use of the product will cause serious injury or death.

The reason for the recall was based on the "possibility that these recalled devices may experience failure or unacceptable delay in analyzing a patient's ECG resulting in possible failure to deliver appropriate therapy. The possible failure or delay depends on the location of the defective part that controls the storage and delivery of the electrical charge.

The AEDs involved were manufactured between March 29, 2007 and August 9, 2007, part numbers 970302E, 970308E, 970309E, 970310E and 970311E.

All customers should have received a letter via certified mail in October. Welch Allyn issued a press release, too.



If you provide ALS it might be good to know what your first responders (fire, police, etc.) are using. Some systems coordinate the compatibility of AEDs with the monitor defibrillators used by the ALS system. AEDs are found schools, exercise facilities, airports and other public buildings. They are also prescribed for cardiac patients waiting for transplants, those with anomalies that create the likelihood of sudden cardiac death, such as long QT syndromes, and others.

The clinical judgment of our personnel should not be influenced by erroneous information obtained from users of a malfunctioning device. Also, by making your personnel familiar with the AEDs in your service area, you can enhance their operational efficiency in dealing with them.

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