



AZ JAN PORTAELS
Algemeen Ziekenhuis Vilvoorde

The AZ Jan Portaels, Vilvoorde, Belgium is a dynamic hospital with 441 beds. It offers all medical core curriculums and presents itself as a qualitative regional hospital. Every day, 750 staff members and 100 doctors and specialists devote themselves to provide their patients top quality medical care. The hospital strives for a fruitful cooperation with general practitioners, social workers and other partner hospitals in adjoining areas.

Needle Free

Safe and Efficient

In our hospital we were used to using open administration systems, i.e., open three way taps (stopcocks) and latex injections sites which needed to be approached by a needle. This type of system is widely spread throughout Belgian hospitals.

The problems that occur, however, are the high risk of blood stream infections, allergies and needlestick injuries.

Patient safety is a main concern. In the USA, a patient died as a result of an accidental disconnect. This created a need for safer devices. Hence, Dr. George Lopez created the CLAVE Connector, a one piece needle-free closed system.

“We succeeded in working efficiently thanks to well trained nurses, the right devices and well organized structures”

Luise Van Ingelgem, RN, Internal Medicine 3

“My predecessor, Nicole Verbraeken, organized a search to reduce these risks and as a result increase patient safety,” says Evert Poot, infection control nurse in our hospital since January 2008.

Different parties were part of the decision making process: the nursing management, physicians, surgeons and the nurses. “We felt some resistance to change. It was not easy to convince everyone of the added value of the CLAVE,” says Evert. “In spite of the resistance, we came fairly quickly to an agreement because everyone understood that it would benefit all concerned; not only the patient, but also the health care workers. Our suppliers even customized the product according to the needs of both physicians and nurses,” Evert continues.



The new infusion set with integrated Y-CLAVE Connectors and back check valve was officially introduced in our facility on January 8, 2008.

“Our hospital is unique in Belgium with this system, albeit that other hospitals may have other systems from other suppliers,” Evert explains. “we have chosen the CLAVE because it is an integrated product - there’s no need for the nurses to assemble different components and because of the neutral displacement which we didn’t find in any competitive products. The nurses, the main users of CLAVE, are very happy with the advantages created by the new administration system.

“The most important advantage is the ease of use,” says Linda Fortan, Head Nurse Geriatrics 2. “Furthermore, CLAVE is very safe for the patient but also for the nurses because there’s no use of needles. Because CLAVE is a closed system, it is rarely possible to have air in the lines, something we encountered in the past because of the high workload and use of the stopcocks in the lines”

“CLAVE is very safe for the patient, but also for the nurses, because there’s no use for needles”

Linda Fortan, Head Nurse Geriatric Ward 2

Luise Van Ingelgem, RN, Internal Medicine continues: “The use of CLAVE saves time because we don’t have to assemble different component parts: it is an all in one product. No more assemblies and that brings the quality of our care to our patients to a higher level. We received training to learn how to work with the product. It’s logical that it took some time, but looking back, it all went quite smoothly. We succeeded in working efficiently thanks to well trained nurses, the right devices and well organized structures ”

