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NEWS RELEASE

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Single-Use Blood Collection Devices Help Ensure Safety of Patients and Healthcare Workers *BD Introduces BD Vacutainer® Family of Pre-Attached Holders*

Orlando, FL (July 27, 2005)—BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a global medical technology company and leader in patient and healthcare worker safety-engineered devices and technologies, commends the National Phlebotomy Association (NPA) for reaffirming its opposition to the reuse of blood tube holders.

In a statement issued earlier today at the International Congress of Clinical Chemistry in Orlando, the NPA urged phlebotomists and other healthcare workers to stop reusing blood tube holders for patient blood collections. The statement cited a study completed by the NPA, which revealed that 99 percent of sampled reusable holders were contaminated with blood, creating an unnecessary risk of exposure to HIV, hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus and other bloodborne pathogens for healthcare workers and patients. (The complete statement is available at www.nationalphlebotomy.org).

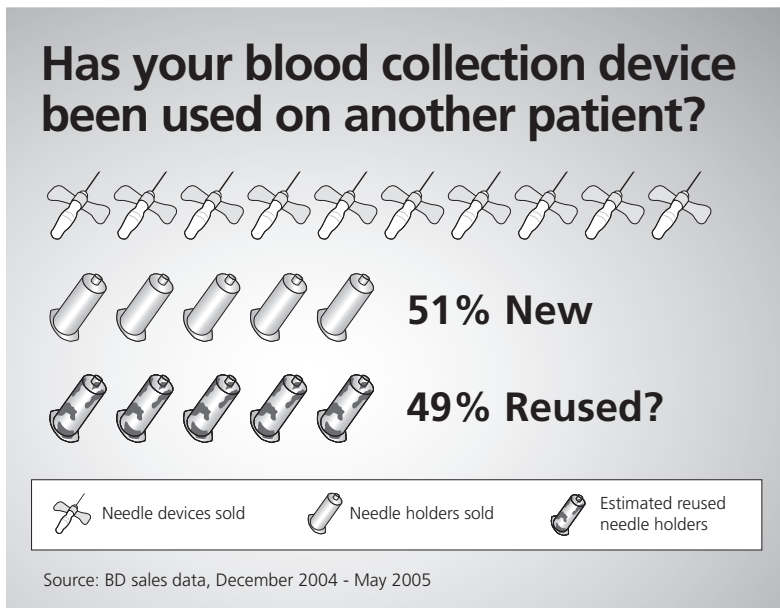
According to NPA Chief Executive Officer Diane Crawford, the association has always supported single-use devices. However, the results of the NPA study, the rise in antibiotic resistant pathogens and the prevalence of healthcare associated infections prompted the association to strengthen its stance against reusing blood tube holders. “We’d like to see all phlebotomists, nurses and physicians use blood collection needles and holders that are designed for single use—preferably with pre-attached holders,” Crawford says. “There is simply no reason to jeopardize the safety of healthcare workers or patients when devices that can virtually prevent reuse are readily available. Holders that are pre-attached to safety-engineered blood collection needles and sets may offer the highest level of infection prevention and control.”

A longtime proponent of healthcare worker and patient safety, BD offers several single-use blood collection needles and blood collection sets with pre-attached holders: The BD Vacutainer® Eclipse™ Blood Collection Needle with built-in safety shield, BD Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Set with large, flexible wings and BD Vacutainer® Push Button Blood Collection Set with in-vein activation. “BD has developed the widest range of safety-engineered blood collection needles with pre-attached holders to address specimen collection needs,” says Amber Hogan, Manager, Safety and Health Affairs at BD. Each holder is engraved, “DO NOT REUSE” and “SINGLE USE ONLY” to encourage single-use compliance.

West Clinic, a facility in Memphis, Tennessee that performs up to 300 blood draws a day, adopted the BD Vacutainer Safety-Lok Blood Collection Set with pre-attached holder to improve healthcare worker and patient safety and streamline operations. “Switching to BD pre-attached holders has saved us time and simplified our ordering and purchasing processes,” explains Phlebotomy Manager, Prindell Lane. “Our 14 full-time phlebotomists like the one-handed safety feature, and BD needles have a nice draw.”

The NPA joins other prominent healthcare associations and regulatory agencies that have recognized the risks of reusing blood collection holders.

- A 2003 OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin prohibited the reuse of tube holders to protect healthcare workers from contaminated back-end needles (SHIB 10-15-03).
- That same year, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America recommended the adoption of single-use medical devices to prevent the spread of microbes and the rise of new antibiotic resistant infections.



On average, for every 100 blood collection needles or sets sold, only 51 single use holders were sold as well. This implies that up to 49 percent of blood collection needles and sets are used with holders that have been previously used. A study conducted by the National Phlebotomy Association revealed that 99 percent of sampled reusable holders were contaminated with blood, potentially exposing healthcare workers and patients to a variety of bloodborne pathogens, including HIV, hepatitis C virus and hepatitis B virus.¹ Since tube holders that are reused are not disinfected or sterilized between uses, the potential for airborne pathogens and other microbes and contaminants may occur.²

¹ National Phlebotomy Association
² SHEA Guideline #362, May 2003

Since its inception in 1978, the National Phlebotomy Association has been the only organization concerned with all aspects of educating and representing the nation’s phlebotomists. The NPA is committed to excellence in developing educational curricula, providing accreditation, offering continuing education programs, conducting research and promoting professional and public awareness of phlebotomy. The NPA has certified over 15,000 phlebotomists in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Canada and Switzerland.

About BD

BD is a medical technology company that serves healthcare institutions, life science researchers, clinical laboratories, industry and the general public. BD manufactures and sells a broad range of medical supplies, devices, laboratory equipment and diagnostic products. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2004, BD reported total revenues of \$4.935 billion.

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