

**Medtronic (Schweiz) AG**

Talstrasse 9  
3053 Münchenbuchsee  
www.medtronic.com

Tel. 031 868 01 00  
Fax 031 868 01 99  
E-Mail [swisscontact@medtronic.com](mailto:swisscontact@medtronic.com)

## **Urgent Field Safety Notice**

### **Medtronic NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube & NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube**

Notification

May 2022

**Medtronic Reference: FA1255**

Dear Anesthesia Care Providers / Users of these products,

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that Medtronic is issuing a safety notice regarding the use of the NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube & NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube. This safety notice applies to all distributed products with the Model Numbers listed in Attachment 1.

**Issue Description:**

We have received reports of events related to airway obstruction while using NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube & NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube. Both tubes are silicone tubes with the main shaft reinforced by a wire coil to prevent collapse while maintaining flexibility. The cuffs are also manufactured with silicone. Not following the Instructions for Use (IFU) and over-inflating the cuff increases intra-cuff pressure which can cause the silicone cuff to extend, herniate, or distort over the end of the tube and/or the Murphy-eye potentially causing obstruction of the patient airway and loss of ventilation.

It is important to carefully review and adhere to the Instructions for Use (IFU). Additionally, we have provided recommendations below when airway obstruction is encountered for the affected products in Attachment 1.

**Recommended Actions when using NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube & NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube and airway obstruction is encountered:**

1. Immediately deflate the cuff and attempt to ventilate.
2. If ventilation cannot be re-established:
  - a. Extubate the NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube or NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube from the patient
  - b. Re-establish ventilation with Bag Valve Mask (BVM) or Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA).
  - c. Reintubate with a new non-silicone (PVC) Endotracheal Tube or, if surgically needed, reintubate the patient with a new, larger NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube or NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube which will require less cuff inflation volume and pressure.

Additional discussion for using a NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube & NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube:

Intubate the patient using standard of care and medical training and knowledge. As stated in the IFU, use care when manipulating the tube's position. Manipulation of an inflated tube can cause the inflated cuff to stretch over the tube opening potentially causing obstruction to the patient's airway. Any manipulation or repositioning of the tube and/or patient should be preceded by deflation of the cuff. Then assess tube placement and non-occlusion to help ensure successful ventilation.

**Instructions for Use (IFU) Warnings:**

Per the Instructions for Use (IFU) Warning, an airway seal should be accomplished without exceeding intracuff pressure of 25 cm H<sub>2</sub>O. Care should be taken to not over-inflate the cuff. Warnings from the IFU have been restated below.

**To mitigate the potential for causing airway obstruction:**

Read and follow the product IFU. For clarification, the following information is provided from the IFU:

- From the "Warnings – EMG tubes" section, bullet 5: "Do not attempt to manipulate an EMG tube with an inflated cuff after insertion. Manipulating a tube with an inflated cuff may cause partial airway blockage at the tip and/or Murphy Eye, cuff herniation, tip deflection, and/or injury of the larynx or vocal cords. Ensure that the cuff is fully deflated before any manipulation and confirm that the airway is free of any potential occlusion after repositioning."
- From the "Warnings – EMG tubes" section, bullet 7: "Inflation of the cuff by "feel" alone or by using a measured amount of air is not recommended since resistance is an unreliable guide during inflation. Intracuff pressure should be closely monitored with a pressure measuring device."
- From the "Warnings – EMG tubes" section, bullet 8: "Do not overinflate the cuff. Ordinarily, the cuff pressure should not exceed 25 cm H<sub>2</sub>O. Carroll and Greenvik recommend maintaining a seal pressure at or below 25 cm H<sub>2</sub>O (Carroll, R.G., and Greenvik, A.: "Proper Use of Large Diameter, Large Residual Cuffs." Critical Care Medicine Vol. 1, No. 3: 153-154, 1973). Overinflation can result in tracheal damage, rupture of the cuff with subsequent deflation, or in cuff distortion which may lead to airway blockage."
- From the "Warnings-EMG tubes" section, bullet 9: "Minimal Occluding Volume or Minimum Leak techniques should be used in conjunction with an intracuff pressure measuring device in selecting the sealing pressure. Cuff pressure should continue to be monitored thereafter, and any deviation from the selected seal pressure should be investigated and corrected immediately."
- From the "Precautions" section, bullet 3: "It is strongly recommended that the surgeon consult with the attending licensed medical practitioner who will be administering anesthesia prior to the use of EMG monitoring to review EMG monitoring techniques, goals and the effects of the administration of anesthesia on neuromuscular activity."
- From the "Precautions" section, bullet 5: "Proper sizing, oral intubation and extubation should be in accordance with accepted medical techniques and expert clinical judgment. A tube that is one size larger than standard selection is recommended whenever possible to improve electrode contact with vocal cords. The proper size tube for the patient should be determined prior to intubation by the anesthesia provider and/or surgeon."

In addition to the above, the current Instructions for Use (IFU) for these devices are in the process of being updated to reinforce the warnings/precautions. A copy of the updated IFU will be mailed to each of you as soon as it becomes available and to any new customer after the initiation of this product safety notice.

**Additional Information:**

The Competent Authority of your country has been notified of this action.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause. We are committed to patient safety and appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact your Medtronic representative.

Sincerely,

**Medtronic (Schweiz) AG**

Enclosed: Attachment 1: Product scope.

**Attachment 1****Product Scope:**

*Models utilizing IFU M726750C793, Rev. A*

| Brand                                    | Model   |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| ENDOTRACH TUBE 8229306 NIM EMG 6MM ROHS  | 8229306 |
| ENDOTRACH TUBE 8229307 NIM EMG 7MM ROHS  | 8229307 |
| ENDOTRACH TUBE 8229308 NIM EMG 8MM ROHS  | 8229308 |
| ENDOTRACH TUBE 8229506 CONT EMG 6MM ROHS | 8229506 |
| ENDOTRACH TUBE 8229507 CONT EMG 7MM ROHS | 8229507 |
| ENDOTRACH TUBE 8229508 CONT EMG 8MM ROHS | 8229508 |

**FA1255: Customer Acknowledgement Form - Response is required**

**Medtronic NIM™ Standard Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube &  
NIM CONTACT™ Reinforced EMG Endotracheal Tube**

**Please complete this Form in its entirety.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Completing this Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the instructions provided and acknowledge receipt of the notification regarding the use of the NIM Endotracheal EMG Tube by signing below. I also agree to further distribute and communicate this important information within my facility and to anyone whom I have further distributed NIM Endotracheal EMG Tube as required.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact your Medtronic sales representative.

**PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:**

[rs.dusregulatory@medtronic.com](mailto:rs.dusregulatory@medtronic.com)