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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DualCap™ raises the bar in the fight against catheter related bloodstream infections by protecting both IV administration sets and luer access valves**

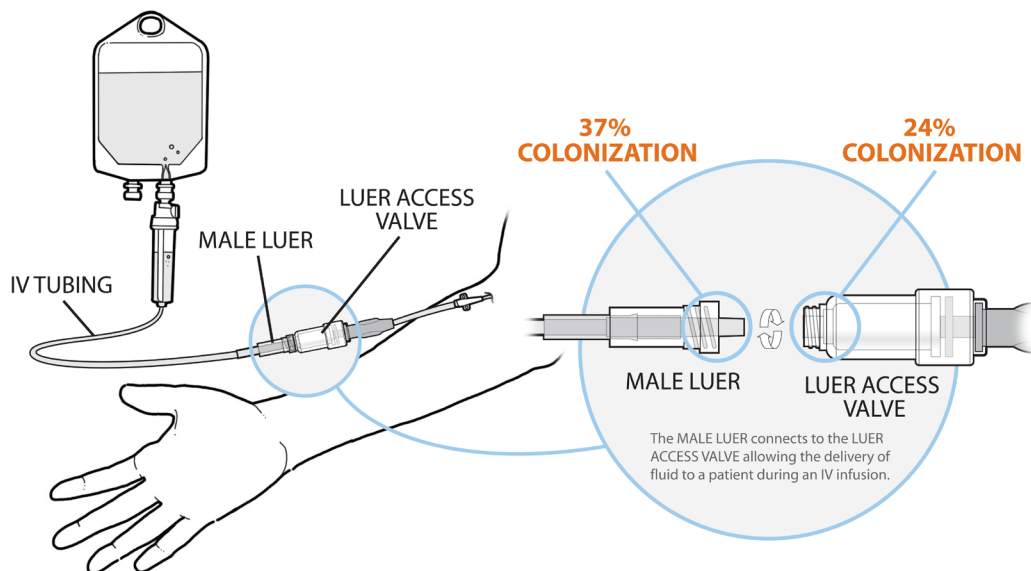
*New clinical evidence shows the exposed end of IV administration sets have been overlooked as a source microbial colonization*

Dallas, Texas / Salt Lake City – April 2, 2011 – In the ongoing fight against costly and potentially fatal catheter related bloodstream infections (CRBSI), landmark clinical data presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) demonstrates that both the exposed end of IV administration sets (male luers) and catheter luer access valves are colonized by the microbes that cause CRBSI. DualCap™ from Catheter Connections ([www.catheterconnections.com](http://www.catheterconnections.com)) is the only product that disinfects and protects male luers and luer access valves.

In the study led by Bert K. Lopansri, MD, of Loyola University Medical Center and Hines VA Hospital, researchers conducted microbiology examinations of male luers and luer access valves collected from five intensive care units located within one hospital. Not only were male luers and luer access valves colonized by microbes, the male luers were colonized at a greater frequency (37%) than the luer access valves (24%). The researchers also found significant cross-contamination, where the same microbes colonized on the male luer were also found colonized on the luer access valve, as well as in the patient's blood. Surprisingly, how well the nursing staff complied with the hospital's policy for

periodically replacing used luer access valves with new valves was not associated with reduced colonization rates. The authors concluded that colonization of the male luer can potentially introduce organisms into the fluid path inside of the luer access valve.

During infusion therapy, fluid is delivered to the patient by inserting the male luer at the end of an IV administration set into a luer access valve attached to the patient's catheter. Therefore, the risk of cross-contamination exists between these two connectors. While luer access valves can be disinfected by swabbing with an antiseptic, male luers cannot be disinfected by swabbing as the antiseptic will enter the fluid path of the IV administration set and potentially into the patient's bloodstream.



“Preventing microbes from migrating into catheters is essential for reducing CRBSI but current practice focuses only on disinfecting luer access valves,” said Vicki Farrar, Chief Executive Officer of Catheter Connections. “Dr. Lopansri’s research proves that luer access valves are only part of the problem. Male luers can no longer be overlooked as an infection source. Our founders believed that

male luer contamination was a significant and overlooked problem and that is why we developed DualCap, the only disinfecting cap that can safely disinfect and protect both male luers and luer access valves.”

DualCap is a disposable, single-use device containing two caps – one for the IV administration set male luer and one for the luer access valve. Each cap contains 70% isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and a patent pending delivery system that keeps IPA out of the fluid path. The caps disinfect the male luer and the luer access valve and keep each connector capped and protected from contamination whenever the IV administration set is disconnected from the patient’s catheter. Clinicians now have a quick and easy way to protect patients from contaminated IV administration set male luers and luer access valves.

CRBSI are a major health care concern. Approximately 500,000 cases of CRBSI occur in the U.S. each year. The CDC estimates that up to 25% of patients with CRBSI will die. As a result, the CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continue to vigorously campaign to reduce the frequency of CRBSI. Furthermore, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) no longer reimburse healthcare facilities for treating CRBSI.

### **About Catheter Connections**

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, Catheter Connections, Inc., a University of Utah start-up, develops and commercializes innovative vascular access products designed to protect patients from acquiring infections during periods of intravenous infusion therapy. For more information visit [www.catheterconnections.com](http://www.catheterconnections.com).

Image courtesy Catheter Connections, Inc.