Physio-Control Issues Alert on LIFEPAK 1000 Defibrillator

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|January 17, 2017

REDMOND, WA — Physio-Control is alerting customers its LIFEPAK 1000 defibrillator may shut down unexpectedly and is advising they remove and reinstall the defibrillator battery weekly until a hardware device correction is issued.

The company has received 34 reports where the external defibrillator shut down unexpectedly on customers due to an intermittent connection between the battery and device electrical contacts, thought to be caused by wear and oxidation formation, according to a voluntary January 13, 2017 field report[1] posted with the Food and Drug Administration[2].

"A defibrillator in this scenario may not be able to deliver therapy during a resuscitation attempt, which may expose patients to the risk of serious harm or death," it states.

So far, eight adverse events have been traced to this issue.

Physio-Control notes the problem "can potentially affect any LIFEPAK 1000 device; however, customers with nonrechargeable batteries who don't routinely remove the battery for inspection, as indicated in the LIFEPAK 1000 Defibrillator Operating Instructions, are more susceptible to this issue."

Removal and reinstallation of the battery will clean the contacts of oxidation and reduce the likelihood of shutdowns from occurring, it adds.

Affected customers will be notified by letter of the safety issue and contacted to schedule device corrections once the hardware correction is ready to implement.

*Follow Patrice Wendling on Twitter:@pwendl. For more from**theheart.org**, follow us on Twitter and Facebook.*

References

1. Physio-Control. Product Notice: LIFEPAK 1000 defibrillator [press release]. January 13, 2017. Available here.
2. Food and Drug Administration. Lifepak 1000 defibrillators by Physio-Control: Voluntary field action—Immediately remove and reinstall battery January 14, 2017. Safety alert

Cite this article: Physio-Control Issues Alert on LIFEPAK 1000 Defibrillator. *Medscape*. Jan 17, 2017.