

INTELLIGENT CONNECTION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE FOR HUNTLEIGH HEALTHCARE

Wireless identification technology and unique connectors enhance flexible and easy-to-operate compression system for deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis

OPPORTUNITY

Over the past 30 years Huntleigh Healthcare Limited (Luton, United Kingdom) has garnered a leading position in the market for intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC) devices for the prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Hospitals have had to purchase different systems for different needs. Calf and thigh intermittent pneumatic compressions use low pressure over a longer time period, while foot compression demands higher pressure for shorter intervals. Huntleigh's vision was to offer an easy to use system that could handle all therapies.



SOLUTION

Huntleigh's design team turned to CPC to create a cost-effective solution for quick connections that would work with its new product. The connection had to be a one-hand, push button quick disconnect coupling. It also had to communicate the garment type to the pump's computer-assisted pressure control unit. CPC engineers created a unique, custom-made connection for the Flowtron® Universal intermittent pneumatic compression system.

CPC engineers designed a coupling that uses wireless identification technology. The coupling insert on the tube extending from the garment includes an RFID tag that stores information about that particular garment. The coupling body on the pump hose includes a reader that powers the communication. The coupling automatically exchanges data at the time of connection and the reader receives the information stored on the tag. The state-of-the-art pump technology recognizes not only what kind of garment is used, but also when only one garment is connected. The pump then automatically switches to the single garment use therapy.

RESULTS

Huntleigh's unique Smartsense™ garment recognition system allows the pump to automatically identify the type of garments attached and adjusts the therapy cycle accordingly, ensuring that optimal prophylaxis is achieved every time. This system makes the Flowtron Universal simple to use and the automatic setting of controls reduces nurse training time and ensures trouble-free handling. CPC also found a solution to make the new connectors compatible with older production garments — a huge benefit for Huntleigh's clients. They can use not only the new garment line, but also garments they already have.

“CPC helped Huntleigh offer a unique product with a great potential for new product innovations. The connections made all the difference.”

— David Hampson,
Technical Manager, Huntleigh
Healthcare Limited

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