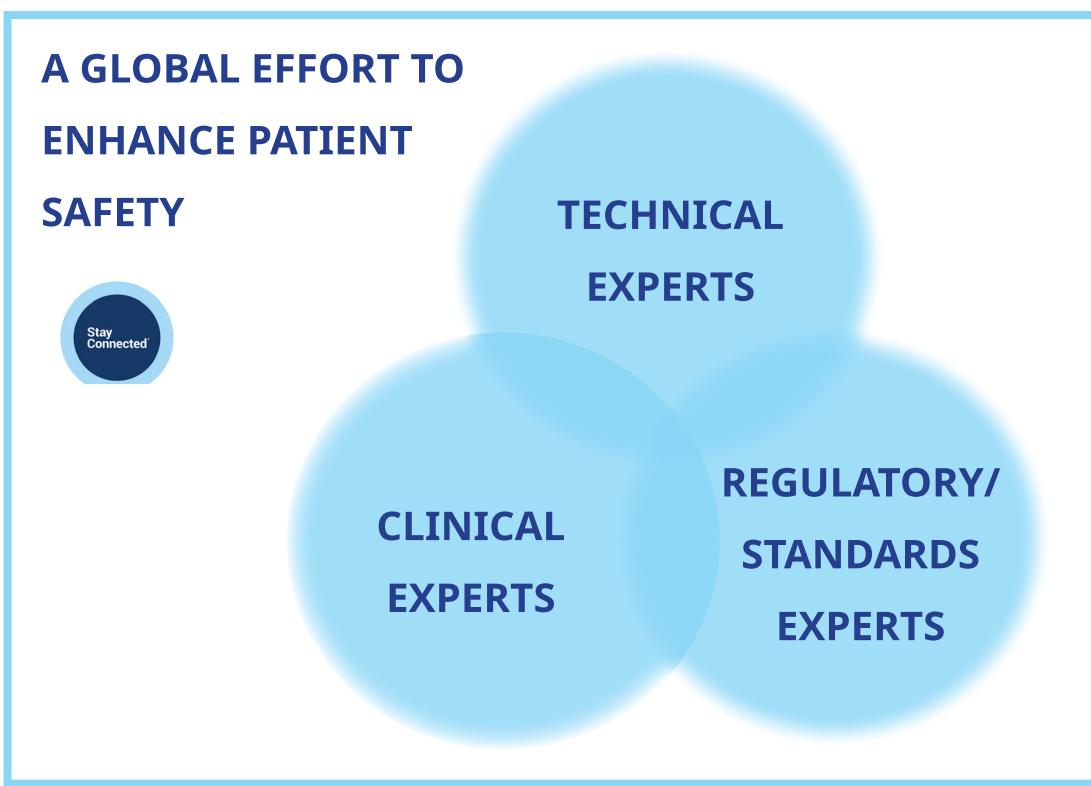


ENFIT CONVERSION: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

AN OVERVIEW OF A GLOBAL STORY

Any health care setting - whether it be a small clinic, a major surgery center, or a home health care environment - has a plethora of equipment to ensure safety and deliver care. IV's, catheters, feeding tubes, blood pressure inflation tubes, medical gas supply lines... the list goes on. But what happens when the connectors for all of these incompatible uses are compatible? What happens when medication meant for the feeding tube goes into the IV? Or when air for the blood pressure cuff goes into the central venous catheter? These highly preventable and extremely critical tubing misconnections prompted a collaboration among manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and health care providers to identify solutions in the form of world-wide standards. Enter the ISO 80369 standard series.



An ISO working group made up of experts in various fields prioritized five areas of concern relating to connections making up the ISO 80369 series. The first connector launched was -3, the enteral standard or ENFit. After the ENFit launch, a second connector, -6, was launched, NRFit for regional anesthesia connections. (The most common procedure using this type of connection is an epidural nerve block.)

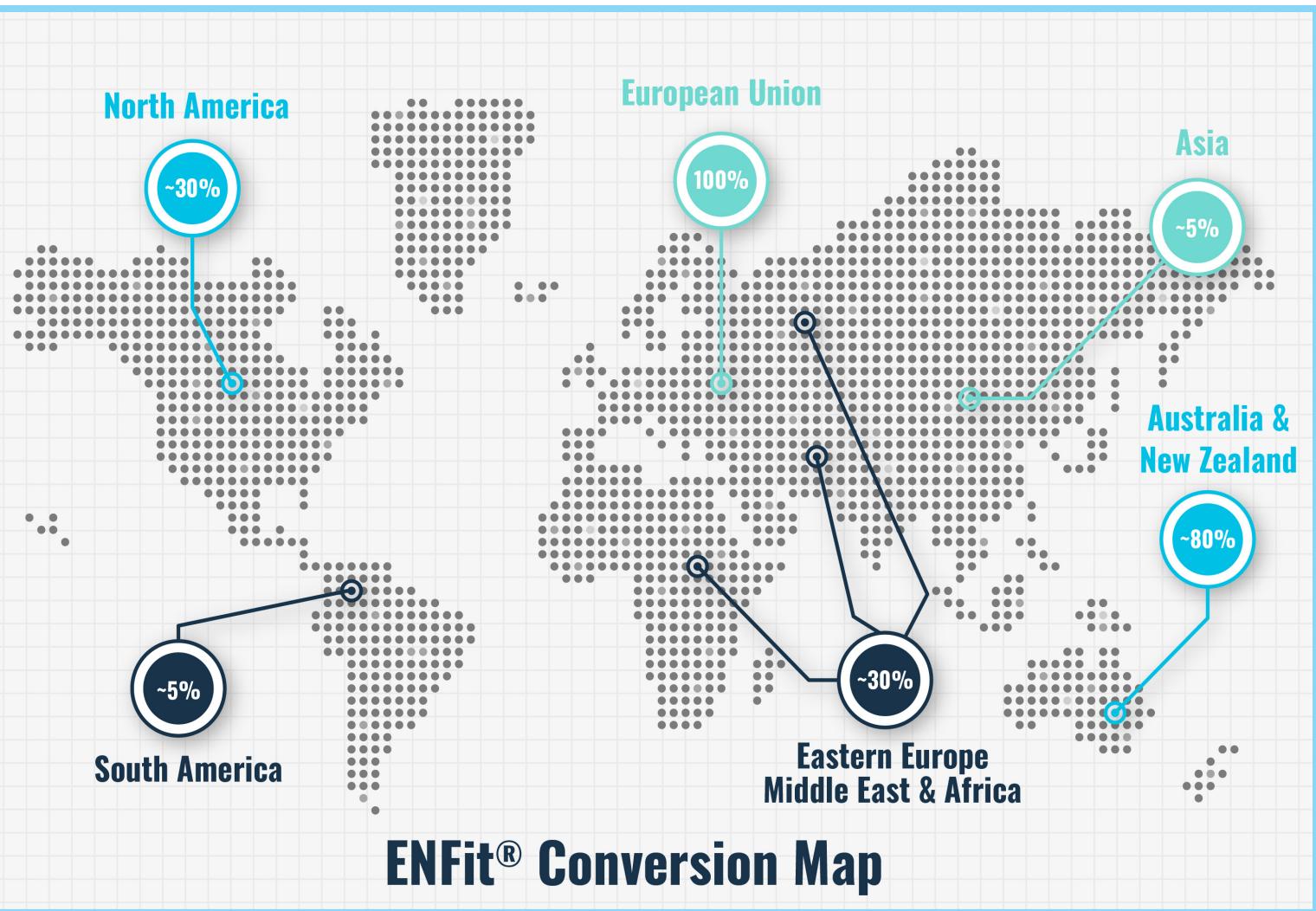
"ENFit is the tip of the iceberg as it relates to eliminating tubing misconnections. I like to think of the complete series as an umbrella. Just as an umbrella won't keep you dry until all the panels are in place, patients won't be completely protected until all the ISO 80369 series connectors have been launched and are in use. We already have some members moving to transition to the second connector, NRFit."

- GEDSA Executive Director, Michael K. Cusack

Transitioning from legacy tubing connectors to ENFit has been proven to be entirely attainable within today's environment. European Union countries are approaching 100% conversion in only 20 months with players in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, and Italy leading the way. Australia and New Zealand have also jumped on board and are almost completely converted. North America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa are slowly making the switch with their collective progress hovering at around 30% conversion. Japan has completed its transition to NRFit and will complete the switch to ENFit by November 2021. China and Brazil plan to begin converting in 2021.

The roster of converted hospitals shows some of the brightest, most reputable medical centers in existence. Included in that list are:

- Children's hospitals across North America and the European Union
- The US's largest non-academic medical practice with locations in multiple states
- The largest nonprofit healthcare system in the US, based in Arizona
- A large multispecialty hospital in southern California with one of the state's largest trauma and ER centers
- International university medical centers located in Bordeaux, Duesseldorf, and Leiden
- A top research facility in London



How did health care providers around the globe make the transition to ENFit? They made a commitment and made it a priority. They weighed the risks of NOT converting with the challenge of taking the necessary steps. They stand for patient safety foremost and waiting for a mandate to evolve didn't align with their mission. They understand there will never be a "perfect" time to undergo a transition like this, so they made it happen now. GEDSA members have partnered with many of these medical facilities through their conversion process and have learned first-hand how to facilitate the transition.

"I worked hand-in-hand with the team at the Kansas City Children's Mercy Hospital as we made the transition. We learned together how important hands-on time with the new connectors was which made the team excited for the change and eager to upgrade."

**- GEDSA Clinical Advisory Board Co-Chair Beth Lyman, MSN, RN,
CNSC, FASPEN, FAAN – Nutrition Support Nurse Consultant**

The results speak loudly. There have been no reported adverse events in 100% converted countries as a result of misconnection since conversion, even in these critical times. It's your turn, and GEDSA is here to help.

"GEDSA's mission is to improve patient safety worldwide, and ENFit is just the beginning. ISO 80369 is a series covering a broad range of therapies. NRFit for peripheral anesthesia is on the market now and we expect a standard for respiratory connectors soon. Only until the entire series is in place worldwide will patients be fully protected from dangerous misconnections."

**- GEDSA Board Chair Franco Dattilo, Global Marketing Manager,
Enteral Feeding & Dilation, Boston Scientific, Endoscopy**

GEDSA brings together organizations and experience from around the globe to promote patient safety through ISO compliant connectors, including manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and health care professionals who are paving the way forward. We are a member-driven organization that has the benefit of working one-on-one with our partners then coming together sharing best practices, learning from each other, and advocating for the industry as a whole.

Visit www.stayconnected.org for more information on converting to ENFit and GEDSA.

