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# NRFit® Conversion Timeline: GEDSA® Guidance Supporting ISO 80369-6

To protect patients from medical misconnections and wrong-route administration errors, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) developed the ISO 80369 series of global standards for safer small-bore connectors in healthcare. These standards establish unique designs for small-bore connectors used in different clinical applications to reduce the risks of tubing misconnections and improve patient safety. ISO 80369-6 defines the NRFit connector design, a dedicated connector standard intended for neural / neuraxial (all regional anesthesia) applications, including spinal, epidural, wound infiltration, and peripheral nerve blocks.

The NRFit connector's unique geometry is mechanically engineered to prevent it from fitting into unrelated systems, reducing the risks of misconnections and medication errors. GEDSA and its supporting organizations strongly encourage manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, and healthcare providers to participate actively in the adoption of NRFit and to align transition efforts with ISO 80369-6 requirements. Because the change affects every component in the neuraxial administration system, including syringes, filter straws, procedural needles, catheters, pump disposables, and medication delivery sets, a coordinated and phased approach is essential to ensure a smooth transition without disrupting patient care.

Global Transition Timeline:
Japan and the United Kingdom have already completed full national conversions to NRFit, demonstrating successful implementation across all healthcare settings. Other regions, such as North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, have NRFit product availability and are taking steps towards converting to NRFit. Understanding the importance of this patient safety initiative and in order to foster compliance to Section 1279.7 of California's Health and Safety Code†, **GEDSA members are planning to ramp up production of their NRFit products so that this safer system is the preferred and predominant option of choice in these regions by December 31st 2028**. Other regions, such as the Middle East, Africa, LATAM, and Asia, are preparing for implementation in the coming years as regulatory clearances and inventories align.

Hospitals and health systems are encouraged to begin planning now by working closely with suppliers to plan conversion timelines, update protocols, and train staff on the NRFit connector. Conversion planning can take up to a year or more and thus it is prudent to start planning now. A successful transition depends on consistent use of NRFit connectors across all neural / neuraxial applications to maintain compatibility and ensure patient safety.

For up-to-date conversion progress by country and additional NRFit resources, visit:
https://stayconnected.org/NRFit/

†https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&sectionNum=1279.7



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