



SAFETY ALERT

Equipment Power Cables Safety

“Sharing Lessons Learned”

A safety incident reported a burning smell followed by observing a spark from the power cable attached to one of the medical equipment. Upon inspection the following findings were detected:

- Δ Remarkable over-stretching and bending on the tip of the power cable, which have resulted in a cut within the wire, explaining the reason behind the spark. (see Figure 1).
- Δ Power cables were inappropriately looped from the back of the patient’s bed and plugged into the power outlets on the panel above the bed. (see Figure 2).
- Δ Potential fire risks observed on other Medical Equipment’s power cables with visible cuts. (see Figure 3).



(Figure 1): Over-stretching and cut on the tip of the power cable.



(Figure 2): Cables looped around the ceiling-mounted panel.



(Figure 3): Visible cuts on power cables

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Infusion Pumps are recommended to be plugged into the outlets available at the back wall of the patient’s bed, which are nearby the pumps, to avoid over-stretching them.
2. Request additional outlets from EU&M, in case needed.
3. Report and send all Medical Equipment with visible or signs of cuts within their power cables to Clinical Engineering in order to replace the affected cables immediately.
4. Avoid operating equipment with affected cables before reporting and sending the equipment to Clinical Engineering.

Prepared by Clinical Engineering