

## VisIV™ Container: Advancing Patient and Caregiver Safety

The VisIV (pronounced viz-eye-vee) container is a totally redesigned flexible intravenous (I.V.) container for medications and solutions that helps address the needs of hospitals today: helping to reduce preventable medical errors, helping improve caregiver safety and efficiency, and helping decrease waste and its environmental impact.

The VisIV container's innovative features can assist hospitals in advancing patient and caregiver safety, by helping improve:

- **Speed of Medication Delivery** – In critical care situations when every second counts, not having to disinfect a port or remove and discard an overwrap can allow the patient to receive prescribed medication more quickly.

An I.V. container's ports are the points where medication to be administered is injected into the container and where the I.V. administration set is connected. Prior to needle insertion, caregivers swab the surface of the medication additive port with alcohol to disinfect it.

The VisIV container's ports are sterile "out of the box" – in other words, when the port's pull-ring is removed, the area underneath is sterile. This provides a potential benefit to the patient as medication can be immediately added to the container.

With a standard flexible I.V. container, an external overwrap is used as a moisture barrier. Because the barrier properties are designed into its advanced multilayer film, the VisIV container requires no overwrap, which helps caregivers save time when delivering medications.

- **Caregiver Safety and Efficiency** – Greater work loads and staff shortages put an enormous strain on today's clinicians, increasing the risk of work-related injuries. Furthermore, the small size of ports on most flexible I.V. containers can make needle insertion a challenge, particularly in critical care situations.

The VisIV container offers virtually impenetrable port tubes and a flanged port design that provides a greater protective area for clinicians as they add medications to the container. By protecting nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and physicians from accidental needlesticks, the VisIV container helps improve healthcare worker safety and simplifies an aspect of their demanding workload.

- **Confidence in Medication Integrity** – Medication tampering is a concern for hospitals today, however, other flexible I.V. containers currently available do not provide a clear indication when medication has been added to the diluent, or fluid, in the container.

With the VisIV container, when caregivers observe that the Blu-Med™ Safety Port has not been removed, they see a visual indication that the medication administration port has not been accessed. This tamper-evident system can help hospitals ensure the integrity of the medications they deliver.

- **Potential Avoidance of Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAIs)** –The VisIV container's medication additive port is sterile and covered by an ergonomic pull-ring that helps reduce the risk of touch contamination, helping caregivers potentially reduce preventable HAIs for patients, particularly those who are immuno-compromised.

For hospitals seeking alternatives to containers made of glass or containing DEHP (di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate) or PVC (polyvinyl chloride), the VisIV container is made from PVC- and DEHP-free materials that provide the thermal stability, moisture barrier properties and inertness required for I.V. medications, while avoiding the leaching associated with PVC. The VisIV container's inert material also provides an alternative to glass I.V. containers along with the associated breakage risk.

### **About Hospira**

Hospira, Inc. is a global specialty pharmaceutical and medication delivery company dedicated to Advancing Wellness™ by developing, manufacturing and marketing products that help improve the productivity, safety and efficacy of patient care. With 70 years of service to the hospital industry, Hospira's portfolio includes one of the industry's broadest lines of generic acute-care injectables, which help address the high cost of proprietary pharmaceuticals; integrated solutions for medication management and infusion therapy; and the leading U.S. injectable contract manufacturing business. Headquartered in Lake Forest, Ill., north of Chicago, Hospira has approximately 13,000 employees and 14 manufacturing facilities worldwide. Hospira's news releases and other information can be found at [www.hospira.com](http://www.hospira.com).