

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Survey & Clinical News

If your facility uses disinfectants on electronic patient care equipment or even computer stations with unsealed electronic components, beware. The FDA, CDC, EPA and OSHA recently issued a public health notification warning of the hazards of using excess cleaning and disinfecting liquids on such devices. Doing so has resulted in equipment fires and other damage, equipment malfunctions and healthcare worker burns, the notice warns.

The problems have involved infusion pumps, ventilators and patient-controlled analgesia pumps, among other equipment. The notification may also apply to "any equipment that has unsealed electronic circuitry or components, such as computer workstations, handheld devices and other monitoring equipment." To avoid hazards, the notice advises healthcare facilities to obtain the manufacturer's labeling for any warnings about wetting, immersing or soaking the equipment. And review the manufacturer's cleaning and maintenance instructions, and ensure all staff are trained and will follow these instructions. Read the advisory at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/103107-cleaners.html>.