



December 20, 2000

Dear Valued Customer:

The following provides information regarding the free-flow protection features found in syringe pumps manufactured by Baxter Healthcare Corporation. The syringe pumps included in this review are: the **Auto Syringe, AS40A**¹ and **AS50** pumps, the **InfusO.R.** pump and the **PCA II** pump.

Free-flow is defined as the unregulated flow of an intravenous therapy to a patient. The risk of syringe siphoning (free-flow) cannot be discounted when using syringe pumps, and can be significantly reduced by following these recommendations:

- Load the syringe in the pump according to Baxter's operating instructions. The syringe barrel and plunger should be securely clamped. This means that the syringe finger grips are located within the slot provided on the pump body, the syringe plunger is held securely by the clamp on the driver carriage, and the syringe barrel clamp is placed across the syringe barrel.
- Use an inline anti-siphon set. The anti-siphon sets manufactured by Baxter are designed to minimize free-flow at heights up to approximately 38 inches above the point of entry into the patient. The anti-siphon set helps reduce inadvertent drug delivery during syringe changes.
- Always do a brief inspection of the syringe for any defects, particularly around the seal between the syringe plunger and barrel, to ensure that a closed airtight fluid pathway to the patient is established.

Thorough training and periodic re-certification of the healthcare professionals responsible for the operation of infusion pumps is critical. I hope this information has been helpful to you. If you have further questions please call the Product Information Center at 1-800-933-0303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Wesley, M.D." in a cursive style.

John R. Wesley, MD, FACS
Medical Director and Vice President
Medical & Professional Affairs

¹ **Auto Syringe AS40A** is no longer manufactured; service only is provided for current users.
Baxter **Auto Syringe, InfusO.R.** and **PCA II** are trademarks of Baxter International Inc.