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INNOVATE UK FUNDED STUDY REVEALS GOOD DEMAND AND ACCEPTANCE FOR NEW TRAUMA PROCEDURE TRAY

UK based Uvamed Ltd, manufacturers of the popular Rainbow Trays and Tamper Evident Rainbow Trays™ for anaesthetic drugs, has recently won an Innovate UK award to develop the Trauma Tray procedure-pack/crash-box. Trauma Trays are secure and auditable complete procedure packs for use away from regular hospital environments such as rescue services, ambulances, field hospitals, care homes and in emergency departments. The secure tray packs will contain all equipment, supplies and where appropriate the drugs required to perform procedures in remote locations.

A usability study led by TM-MIC/MD-TEC (Trauma Management MedTech Cooperative / Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation Centre), sought specialist opinion from a select group of healthcare professionals working within the field of anaesthesia, regarding imagined use of the product outside of their typical working environment for RSI (Rapid Sequence Induction) procedures. The study suggested a good level of demand and acceptance for the Trauma Tray concept, yielding many key insights for consideration. Valuable feedback on the requirements of Trauma Trays for RSI will feed into the R&D for the packs, which are designed for professional use to support human factor principles in reducing cognitive loads during administration. All participants mentioned that the inconsistency of drug availability and equipment between locations was a concern and so the Trauma Tray would be of benefit.

Other healthcare professionals have provided significant and effective feedback into the Trauma Tray design, use, function and suitability, the value of which has been fundamental to creating a product that will address the needs of healthcare professionals in their working environments.

Bev Fawdington, Director at Uvamed Ltd, said, "The feedback we have received from healthcare professionals will augment the basic principles of the Rainbow Trays including the Tamper Evident version, to include colour coding, compartmentalisation, order of progression and secure tamper-proofing with chain of custody auditable labelling". Bev continued, "Our Trauma Trays aim to support professionals when stressed or fatigued at work, providing comprehensive procedure packs that include all equipment, supplies and drugs for use in ambulances, hospitals and communities, especially where surroundings are unfamiliar, and communication is restricted."

Procedures identified that could benefit from a Trauma Tray include: Routine IV cannulation; Arterial / central line insertion; Tracheotomy; RSI or basic suturing kits.

Potential users for Trauma Trays include, but not exclusive to:

- Military field / remote hospital facilities

- Humanitarian organisations (MSF/Red Cross)
- Ambulance services, NHS and private
- Emergency departments
- Care homes for the elderly or vulnerable
- Home medication eg. Haemophilia

State of the art crash carts in ICU and A&E are extensively equipped, but the provision of comparable equipment in remote facilities is both costly and inappropriate. However, it is imperative that relevant and suitable equipment and drugs are made readily available immediately for patients. Trauma Trays will provide curated procedure packs, centrally dispensed and securely sealed with auditable labels, providing a means to get essential and appropriate equipment, supplies and drugs to patients remotely hospitalised quickly and safely and presented in a manner that promotes ease-of-use, especially when undertaken by professionals working outside of their customary scope of practice.

Funding from the UK Innovate project has allowed Uvamed to develop Trauma Trays to a level where they have two pioneer tray types ready for evaluation by end users. An IV cannulation tray for use in a wide range of applications, and a more complex Central Venous Catheter tray to demonstrate the robustness of the design for both simple and complex procedures. Moving forward the company plans to design trays for more procedures including RSI and tracheostomy.

The COVID pandemic has evidenced comprehensively our reliance on medical plastics and the benefits they provide in reducing infection and keeping patients safe. Plastic barriers in all the single-use disposable PPE, together with plastic packaging to keep equipment and supplies sterile are imperative. In recognition of this dependency, we are working within our innovate funded project to establish a safe and commercially viable option for the recycling of medical plastics and packaging, to support a positive end-of-life solution.

Clinicians interested in obtaining further information, should contact Bev Fawdington at bev@uvamed.net

www.uvamed.net

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