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To whom it may concern

Our reference

COVID-19-MUOV – PM Respiratory Care

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## COVID-19: Usage of multiple patients on one ventilator

Dear customers, dear health care professionals,

the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Dräger recognizes that the need for ventilators, ventilator accessories, and other respiratory devices may outpace the supply available to health care facilities during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Dräger continues to work with all worldwide health authorities during this crisis and aims at disseminating factual information to healthcare providers to support the patients under their care.

We have received many inquiries regarding social media postings and publications that discuss the use of one ventilator to be used on multiple patients. Any such use would be considered “off-label application”. The intended use of Dräger ventilators is as a single patient item to ensure safe and reliable management of the respiratory failure patient that requires mechanical ventilation. Dräger has not tested or validated for use any scenario using one ventilator on multiple patients. In a joint statement, the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF), American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), and American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) has advised against the concept of placing multiple patients on a single mechanical ventilator. (<https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/newsroom/news-releases/2020/03/joint-statement-on-multiple-patients-per-ventilator>)

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In cases where hospitals are forced into catastrophic operating conditions, Dräger suggests hospitals have a plan prepared in advance which includes input from all disciplines such as medical advisors, administration, legal counsel, and ethics teams in place for such measures that is based on best clinical practices and evidence-based guidelines to guide decision making during difficult situations such as rationing mechanical ventilation equipment and supplies.

If you have any questions or remarks to this topic, please do not hesitate to contact your local Dräger representative.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Ralfs', written in a cursive style.

Frank Ralfs  
Product Management  
Respiratory Care