

Tekni-Plex Medical IV tubing solution helps protect healthcare professionals, while providing needed therapy to COVID-19 patients

Tekni-Plex harnesses global manufacturing footprint to provide tubing ASAP

Tekni-Plex Medical product/equipment:

Natvar clear phthalate-free PVC tubing made from a Colorite compound

Problem

A major U.S. medical technology company was faced with an unprecedented demand for tubing for intravenous (IV) infusion pumps due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditionally, six feet of tubing is sufficient to allow the pump stand to be moved around the hospital bed, as well as to allow the patient to walk while connected to the IV. However, due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, hospitals around the country were removing IV pumps from the patient's bedside and placing them just outside the hospital room door. The goal was to minimize the chance of exposure for front line doctors and nurses, and enable these medical professionals to monitor dosages and change IV bags from a distance. Overnight, the standard requirement of six-foot tubing sections had to be tripled, and even quadrupled, to get the length required to manage the therapy at a distance.

Cause

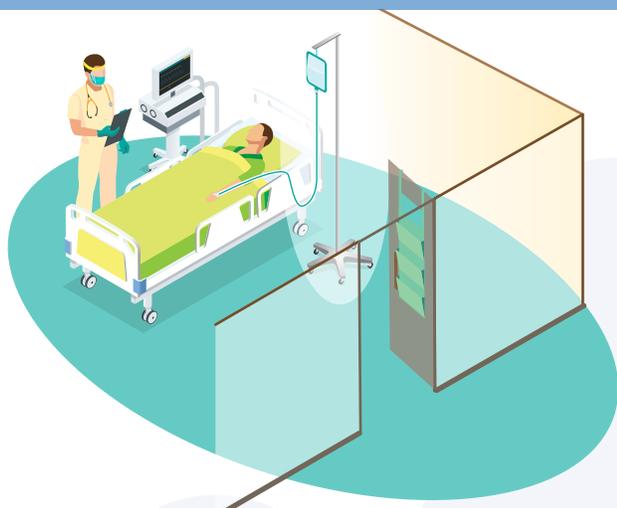
For several years, the medical technology company self-manufactured its own tubing with compound supplied by Tekni-Plex. However, with the sudden overnight demand for increased lengths and quantities, its in-house manufacturing operation did not have the capacity to produce what was needed. That's when the company turned to Tekni-Plex Medical.

Solution

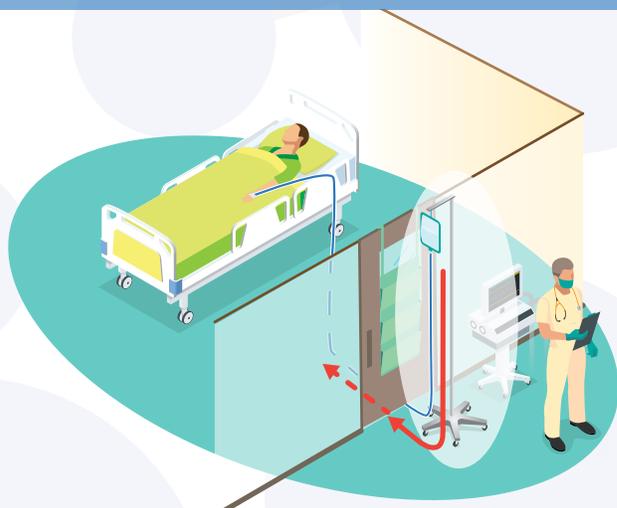
Tekni-Plex Medical had an existing relationship with the medical technology manufacturer, supplying other products. As a result of the relationship, contact was made to see if Tekni-Plex Medical had manufacturing capacity to assist. Due to Tekni-Plex Medical's vertical manufacturing integration of both compounds and tubing, and its global manufacturing footprint, Tekni-Plex was able to step in immediately and begin coordinating supply lines and manufacturing capability across multiple plants.

The initial call came in on a Monday. Because validated compounds were already at the facility, production began within three days. Additional compound

Traditional IV set-up



Long IV tubing manufactured by Tekni-Plex Medical



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deliveries were scheduled to support production requirements. The turnaround time from the first conversation to delivery of the first truckload (2 million feet of tubing) to the customer was 10 days. Production is ongoing to fulfill the demand.

Benefit

By turning to Tekni-Plex Medical the IV pump manufacturer was able to solve a critical supply problem in 10 days. This compares to what typically would have taken a brand-new vendor six months from initial phone call to production. The company was then able to turn around and supply hospitals with the required tubing lengths to take care of critically-ill COVID-19 patients, while at the same time protecting healthcare professionals. Additionally, the placement of the IV pumps outside the hospital room has had a significant positive impact on reducing the number of times healthcare providers needed to change into fresh personal protective equipment (PPE). Due to the shortage of PPE across the country, this was another significant benefit.

The customer was extremely grateful and Tekni-Plex Medical was pleased to be part of a solution that provides care and helps save lives.

For additional information, please visit:
www.tekni-plex.com/tekni-plex-medical



With this “fix,” medical professionals needed significantly fewer changes of PPE

