

Dear Sleep Patient,

*Philips has recently recalled certain CPAP/BiPAP/Ventilators within their Sleep & Respiratory Care group due to two issues related to the polyester-based polyurethane sound abatement foam used in these devices: (1) the foam may degrade into particles which may enter the device's air pathway and be ingested or inhaled by the user; or (2) the foam may off-gas certain chemicals. These issues may be caused by use of unapproved cleaning methods, such as ozone cleaning units and operation of units in areas of high humidity or temperature. Lastly, the speed with which sound abatement foam breaks down in each patient's respective device is impacted upon whether or not you (the patient) is/are practicing any of the two items noted above.*

### **Norton Healthcare Position**

Due to the unique situation for each individual patient, Norton Healthcare cannot legally advise you to continue to use your device or instruct you to stop using your PAP device. However, Norton Healthcare Sleep Centers wish to provide the following information to assist you in making the best decision for you and your health.

1. We encourage each patient to immediately register their respective device on the Philips website.
  - a. To register your unit, go to **PhilipsSRCUpdate.ExpertInquiry.com** or call **(877) 907-7508**.
2. If you are cleaning your PAP device using an OZONE process, stop this immediately and resume cleaning your device using the manufacturers cleaning guidelines as outlined in the device's operations manual.
3. It is important to understand, depending on the severity of your Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and other co-morbidities (heart disease/arrhythmia, COPD, diabetes, hypertension, etc.) and the risk that untreated OSA may have on an individuals, such as stroke, heart attack, increased chance for motor vehicle accidents, etc., the risk for NOT using PAP may be more detrimental than the potential risk for using your PAP device.

Each patient will have to weigh their circumstances against the above-noted information in determining an action as to whether to cease use or continue use of their PAP units.

We are truly sorry this issue has surfaced, if you need additional information beyond this communication, please make an appointment with your sleep provider.

Respectively,

*Kevin K. Trice, MD, MBA*

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