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Michelle Sahlin, Director of Marketing

612-827-2222 Ext. 16 | MSahlin@bensonmedical.com

Spirometry for Bagpipe Exposure?

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (September 15, 2016) — As NIOSH-certified technicians know, some of the problems that exposed employees show on spiograms are not caused solely by workplace exposure. A recent article in the New York Times, "Beware of Bagpipes?" (James Bakalar, August 22, 2016, online edition, <http://tinyurl.com/h7eeqbz>), uncovers yet another source of lung pathogens: wind instruments.

Not only bagpipes, but also saxophones and trombones have caused adverse outcomes, according to the article. Presumably, if these instruments are not cleaned regularly, fungi or other pathogens can thrive in the dark, moist conditions inside them, and be aspirated by the players.

"We know that front-line technicians who perform spiograms are concerned about all exposures that can harm the lungs," states David Mayou, Sales Manager for Benson Medical Instruments Co. "Because we were concerned about those same cleaning issues with volumetric spirometers, we incorporated a unique design in the [CCS-200 Plus Spirometer](http://bit.ly/2cVjj9Z) (<http://bit.ly/2cVjj9Z>) to dispose of the contaminated single-use mouthpiece without any patient or technician contact." Volumetric spirometers, which have internal chambers and long hoses, have fallen from favor due, in part, to these very issues.

Benson Medical Instruments Co. designs and manufactures audiometers, spirometers, and software to manage hearing conservation and occupational spirometry programs for companies. For more information: David Mayou, Sales Manager, Benson Medical Instruments Co., 310 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 5000, Minneapolis, MN 55415 USA (Office) +1 612-827-2222 (Email) sales@bensonmedical.com (Website) www.bensonmedical.com.

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