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Baxa to launch Rapid-Fill ASF

Baxa has announced the launch of the Rapid-Fill automated filling system (ASF). Designed for speed and accuracy, the Rapid-Fill ASF automates the process of sterile syringe filling, capping and labelling in a pharmacy hood. The Rapid-Fill was designed to meet a market need of 360 million small volume parental doses administered each year in the US.

The Rapid-Fill ASF needs no preventive maintenance and is designed to minimise cleaning requirements. Its cover maximises laminar flow to ensure fluid-path sterility and maintain integrity during the cap removal, fill and capping process. Rapid-Fill Disposables are latex-free and non-DEHP for patient safety.

The Rapid-Fill automated syringe filler eliminates the risk of touch contamination in the filling process, while reducing waste through utilisation of all of the drug in source containers. The devices' integrated disposable combines the syringe, cap and label in a single unit, facilitating the process while minimising raw material inventories. Accurate to within +/- 0.2mL, the Rapid-Fill ASF is a safe and cost-effective alternative to minibags and prefilled syringes, the company claims.

The company intends to launch single-symptom ElixSure medications for pain/fever, cough and congestion during the 2003 to 2004 cough/cold season. The medications will utilise the company's spill-resistant delivery system, which pours like a liquid but resists spilling. The spill-resistant paediatric formulations are designed to provide parents with increased ease and accuracy of dosing.

The ElixSure pain/fever formulation with acetaminophen will be available in bubble gum, grape and cherry flavors. Taro is developing additional products using the NonSpill delivery system. The ElixSure product line will be launched by the Taro Consumer Healthcare Products division.

PRODUCT UPDATES

Barr receives tentative approval for Niaspan 500mg and 750mg ER tablets

Barr Laboratories has received tentative approval from the FDA for a generic version of Kos Pharmaceuticals' Niaspan 500mg and 750mg Extended-Release (ER) tablets. The company is currently challenging the validity and/or infringement of certain patents held by Kos for Niaspan 500mg and 750mg ER tablets and a trial in the Federal