



Western Health

Office of the Chief Financial
Officer

Footscray Hospital
Gordon Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Tel. +61 3 8345 7370
mark.lawrence@wh.org.au

Memorandum

To: All staff and volunteers
From: Mark Lawrence, Chief Financial Officer
Date: 26 March 2019
Subject: New guidance on WOW battery care

Based on advice from the manufacturers, Western Health has decided to issue new guidance on the care and use of WOW batteries.

This new advice relates to fluids coming into potential contact with the base of the battery where they connect to the terminals.

This advice from the manufacturer follows the two incidents over recent weeks, involving WOW batteries.

While Western Health is implementing these care precautions, we are also continuing to seek further independent verification of potential causes of the recent incidents and will update you if any additional information comes to hand.

The manufacturer believes it is important to keep liquid away from the battery connection terminals at all times, including when they are connected to the uPower (cradle) on the WOW and when batteries are being stored, charged or moved.

Sources of potential liquid contact are varied, so the following advice is to be followed:

- Clinell wipes - these should **not** be used to wipe the battery connection terminals – the base of the battery. The batteries do need to be cleaned regularly but this should **not** include the connection terminals.
- Staff involved in cleaning should be clearly advised that they must avoid using cleaning liquid in such a way that it could enter the area around the battery connection terminals.
- Some WOWs are being used with debug liquid containers in the green cradle where Clinell wipes are to be placed – this is **not** suitable as it places the liquid too close to the battery cradle and increases the risk of fluid seeping into the battery connection
- Hand wash liquids that are mounted to walls, pose a potential risk of liquid splashing into the cradle of the WOW and coming into contact with the battery connection. Care should be taken to position WOWs away from where this could be a problem.



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- Drink bottles, coffee cups and any other liquid container must NOT be placed on the WOW at any time.

As a result of these changes, staff will not be allowed to take WOWs into the cafeterias or staff kitchens. This happens reasonably often and poses a major risk of fluid spilling into the battery cradle.

Please ensure that your colleagues are aware of this notice as it is always difficult to reach everyone.

An engineering solution to overcome the issues associated with potential for liquid to come into contact with the battery terminals, is also currently in development.

If you have any concerns or queries about the WOWs or their batteries, please contact EMR@wh.org.au or speak to your manager.

Regards

Mark Lawrence

Chief Financial Officer