



Know the truth: Latest false and misleading claims by competitor Scott Augustine, Augustine Temperature Management

False claims of a “silent recall of Bair Hugger” have been sent to doctors and other health care professionals via email blasts by Scott Augustine, Augustine Temperature Management, and by Augustine-funded and directed shell organizations: “OrthopedicInfectionAdvisory.org” and “StopSurgicalInfections.org”.

Once again, this 3M competitor is making false claims in an effort to incite more litigation and unease about the market-leading Bair Hugger patient warming device. Augustine, who has been warned by the FDA about making spurious claims and who pled guilty to Medicare fraud, has made a series of false claims in presentations and written materials before

These facts provide the truth:

- **There is no recall of the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ System.**
- **The 3M Bair Hugger warming system is safe and effective.** Dozens of scientific studies show that forced-air warming devices effectively warm patients before, during and after surgery and by preventing hypothermia can reduce the risk of surgical site infections.
- Augustine also has falsely claimed that 3M is replacing its Bair Hugger system with an alternative product. This is not true. The 3M Bair Hugger system remains at the heart of our effort to warm every surgical patient. Last year 3M signed an agreement to distribute the VitaHeat® UB3 unit to complement our offering with mobility – while patients are being moved to and from the OR, for example – to help avoid hypothermia by providing continuous patient warming.
- We continue to stand behind the safety and efficacy of 3M products, including the 3M Bair Hugger system, which has been used to safely warm more than 200 million patients over the past 30 years.
- Augustine sells a competing product that is not widely used nor accepted in the marketplace. The company’s founder, Scott Augustine, has pursued a deliberate business strategy of disparaging and instigating litigation against the 3M Bair Hugger system in an attempt to promote his own competing product. He has a history of making false and misleading claims and has been warned by the FDA to stop.
- We will be sharing these latest false claims by Augustine with the FDA. We will continue to vigorously defend 3M’s reputation for safety and quality against false and misleading claims.