EQUIPMENT REVIEW

The Propaq series of Ultraportable Patient Monitors

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Nitec Innovations Ltd have recently introduced the Propaq series of Ultraportable Patient Monitors. Three models are available — the 102, 104 and 106. Various additional modules such as a Printer and Oximeter are available; the latter may be added to the basic unit or to the printer expansion unit depending on user requirements.

All three monitors have ECG and automatic non-invasive blood pressure modules; the 104 and 106 also incorporate invasive pressure and temperature modules. The display is blue supertwist with good visibility over a wide range of angles. Power is supplied by rechargeable lead acid battery pack with an internal recharger that has an input voltage from 10–32 volts, allowing connection to a wide range of power supplies. All the monitors come complete with an AC power adaptor. The operating time varies with the use of the use of backlighting, and the frequency of non-invasive blood pressure (NIBP) measurements; compared with other monitors it is remarkably long at 6.5 h with NIBP every 15 min and continuous backlight. The manufacturers claim that the monitor will run for up to 30 h using the power save option and invasive blood pressure only. Fortunately we have not yet had to put this remarkable feature to the test.

The whole unit weighs less than 3 kg and is of extremely practical construction, being shock proof and having a sturdy hanging arm on the top.

The monitor has been successfully used in the Accident Department of the University Hospital of Manchester, for transfers within the hospital, for air and ground transfers of critically ill patients between hospitals, and at the scene of accidents. There is very little movement artefact.

In conclusion the Propaq series of monitors offer an extremely practical solution to monitoring of patients both inside and outside the Accident Department. It is difficult to pick the most attractive features, but size, sturdiness, and long battery life are all extremely useful in these demanding environments.

Prices:

102—£2950

104—£3450

106—£3950

Printer Expansion Pack—£1550

Oximetry Module—£1750

Available from Nitec (Innovations) Ltd
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Fig. 1. An accident and emergency reference coding system.