

Knock Off Probe Covers

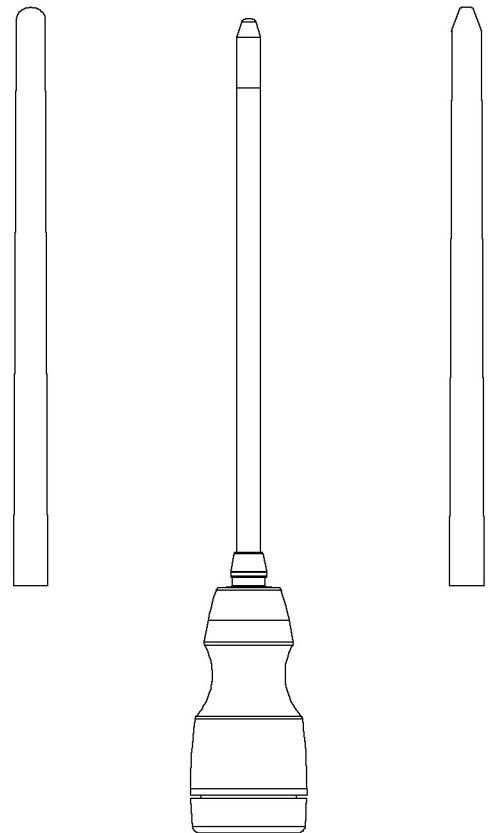
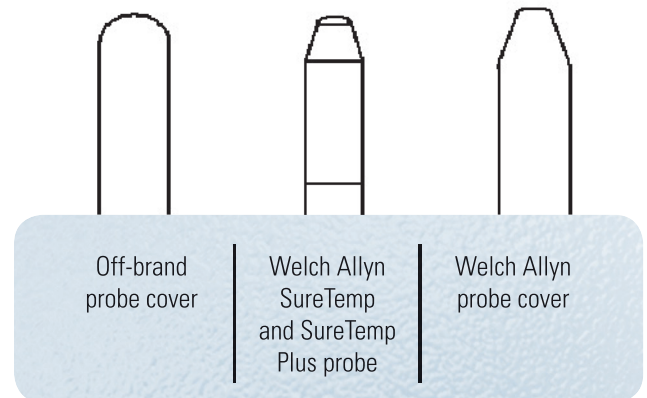
TO: Welch Allyn Thermometer Users
FROM: Whitney A. Bouma

Occasionally, Welch Allyn receives phone calls from SureTemp® and SureTemp® Plus customers complaining of inaccurate temperature readings. These inaccurate readings can almost always be attributed to either improper technique (not placing the probe tip into the sub-lingual pocket) and/or using non-Welch Allyn probe covers. It is **IMPERATIVE** that only genuine Welch Allyn probe covers be used on SureTemp and SureTemp Plus thermometers.

The illustrations at right will help to explain why inaccurate readings result from using non-Welch Allyn probe covers such as those from GMP, Huntington Labs, Banta or others. Notice the shape of the tip of the Welch Allyn probe and the shape of the Welch Allyn probe cover next to it. Only genuine Welch Allyn probe covers are molded to the exact dimensions of the Welch Allyn probe tip. Non-Welch Allyn probe covers have a rounded tip which does not match the design of the Welch Allyn probe. This round tip results in a large air gap between their probe cover and the Welch Allyn SureTemp or SureTemp Plus probe tip. This air gap acts as an insulator and the probe tip never warms up properly, resulting in inaccurate temperatures which take longer to obtain.

Welch Allyn has performed clinical studies to quantify the effects of using non-Welch Allyn probe covers. The average temperature error was a dangerous 0.92°F different from their “true” monitor mode temperature. No responsible health care professional would knowingly purchase or use a device which provided temperatures that, on average, read 0.92°F off of the true temperature.

Please be aware of this situation and advise your facilities to use only genuine Welch Allyn probe covers (part # 05031) for the maximum accuracy and performance of their SureTemp and SureTemp Plus thermometers. You may also want to remind them that the use of non-Welch Allyn probe covers constitutes off-label use of the product and prevents us from guaranteeing or warranting the product for use.



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