

Table 2. Marking Experiences Listed by Skin Preparation Agents

In July 2009, the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority distributed a survey, through patient safety officers, for operating room (OR) managers in Pennsylvania hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities to share their experiences using various marking pens with various skin preparation agents. OR managers were asked to report the visibility of their markers with their various skin preparations and to relay any complaints from patients. The Authority received 106 responses of facility experiences. The following table lists experiences according to skin preparation agents. (Although respondents were not asked to list multiple products, some did; hence, the number of evaluations exceeded the actual number of survey responses.) Experiences are reported for visibility of the mark after skin preparation and for patient complaints about the marks.

PREP	MARKER	VISIBILITY AFTER PREP				PATIENT COMPLAINTS		
		ALWAYS VISIBLE	USUALLY VISIBLE	SOMETIMES VISIBLE	USUALLY WASHED OFF	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	FREQUENTLY
Chloraprep	Accu-line Products, Inc.		1				1	
	Aspen Surgical Products	2	1			1	1	
	Cardinal Health	3				1		
	Corporate Express EXP 50098 water-based, blue fine-tip marker				1	1		
	Covidien (Kendall) Devon	3	4	2	1	4	5	
	DeRoyal	1				1		
	MarketLab — Mini-Mark ML5819	1				1		
	McKesson Medipak Performance Plus		1					
	McKesson, exact product unknown	1					1	
	Medical Action Industries, Inc.		1			1		
	Medline	1	1		1	2	1	
	Op-marks mini-marker	1				1		
	Sandel Surgical Marker	1				1		
	Sharpie	1	1		1	3		
	SurgiMate standard tip skin marker		1			1		
	Viscot Medical Precision Surgical Skin Marker	1		1		2		
	Viscot Medical Scrub-Resistant Surgical Skin Marker	1				1		
	Viscot Medical, exact product unknown	1			1	1	1	
Xodus Skin Marker		1	1	1	2	1		
Duraprep	Accu-line Products, Inc.	2	1				3	
	Aspen Surgical Products	1						
	Cardinal Health	4				1		
	Corporate Express EXP 50098 water-based, blue fine-tip marker	1					1	
	Covidien (Kendall) Devon	4	4		1	5	3	
	DeRoyal	1				1		

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PREP	MARKER	VISIBILITY AFTER PREP				PATIENT COMPLAINTS		
		ALWAYS VISIBLE	USUALLY VISIBLE	SOMETIMES VISIBLE	USUALLY WASHED OFF	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	FREQUENTLY
<i>(continued...)</i> Duraprep	MarketLab — Mini-Mark ML5819	1				1		
	McKesson Medipak Performance Plus		1					
	Medical Action Industries, Inc.	1	1			1	1	
	Medline	2			1	2	1	
	Sandel Surgical Marker			1		1		
	SurgiMate standard tip skin marker		1			1		
	Viscot Medical Precision Surgical Skin Marker	1				1		
	Viscot Medical Scrub-Resistant Surgical Skin Marker	1	2	1		3	1	
	Xodus Skin Marker	1	1			2		
Hibiclens	Aspen Surgical Products		1			1		
	Cardinal Health	4				1		
	Corporate Express EXP 50098 water-based, blue fine-tip marker				1	1		
	Covidien (Kendall) Devon	3	2			1	3	
	DeRoyal			1		1		
	DuraMark Pre-op marker		1			1		
	McKesson Medipak Performance Plus		1					
	Medical Action Industries, Inc.	1	1			1	1	
	Medichoice skin marking pen	1	1			2		
	Sharpie	1		1			1	1
	SurgiMate standard tip skin marker		1			1		
	Viscot Medical Precision Surgical Skin Marker	1				1		
	Viscot Medical Scrub Resistant Surgical Skin Marker	3	1			4		
	Viscot Medical, exact product unknown	1				1		
Xodus Skin Marker	1				1			
PhisoHex	Cardinal Health	1				1		
Povidone-iodine (e.g., Betadine)	Accu-line Products, Inc.		1				1	
	Aspen Surgical Products	2	1	1	1	2	2	
	Ballpoint pen			1			1	
	Cardinal Health	5	2			3	1	
	Corporate Express EXP 50098 water-based, blue fine-tip marker				1	1		
	Covidien (Kendall) Devon	7	10			10	6	

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PREP	MARKER	VISIBILITY AFTER PREP				PATIENT COMPLAINTS		
		ALWAYS VISIBLE	USUALLY VISIBLE	SOMETIMES VISIBLE	USUALLY WASHED OFF	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	FREQUENTLY
<i>(continued...)</i> Povidone-iodine (e.g., Betadine)	DeRoyal	2				1	1	
	DuraMark Pre-op marker		1			1		
	Hospital Marketing Services Skin Scribe	1				1		
	MarketLab — Mini-Mark ML5819	2				2		
	McKesson Medipak Performance Plus	2	1				2	
	McKesson, exact product unknown	2	1			1	2	
	Medical Action Industries, Inc.	1	2			1	2	
	Medichoice skin marking pen	1	1			2		
	Medline	3				2	1	
	Op-marks mini-marker	1					1	
	Secureline		1				1	
	Sharpie	2		1		2		
	SurgiMate standard tip skin marker		1			1		
	Viscot Medical Precision Surgical Skin Marker	3				3		
	Viscot Medical Removable Ink Skin Marker		1			1		
	Viscot Medical Scrub-Resistant Surgical Skin Marker*	3	3	1		5	2	
	Viscot Medical, exact product unknown	2	1		1	3	1	
Xodus Skin Marker	3	1	1		3	2		
Technicare	Cardinal Health	2						
	Covidien (Kendall) Devon	3					1	1
	Sharpie		1			1		
	Viscot Medical Scrub-Resistant Surgical Skin Marker		1			1		

* One comment that ink needs adequate time to dry.

More information is available online at <http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org>.

This table accompanies
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Pa Patient Saf Advis [online] 2009 Sep [cited 2009 Sep 16].

Available from Internet:
[http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org/ADVISORIES/AdvisoryLibrary/2009/Sep6\(3\)/Pages/104.aspx](http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org/ADVISORIES/AdvisoryLibrary/2009/Sep6(3)/Pages/104.aspx).