

Proper discharge of used Ear Thermometer probe cover

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Background

When departments have ear thermometers that are defective or damaged, they will bring the ear thermometer to MMD for one to one exchange. In 2014, MMD noticed that 49 ear thermometers had ejection rings that were broken by user handling.

Methodology



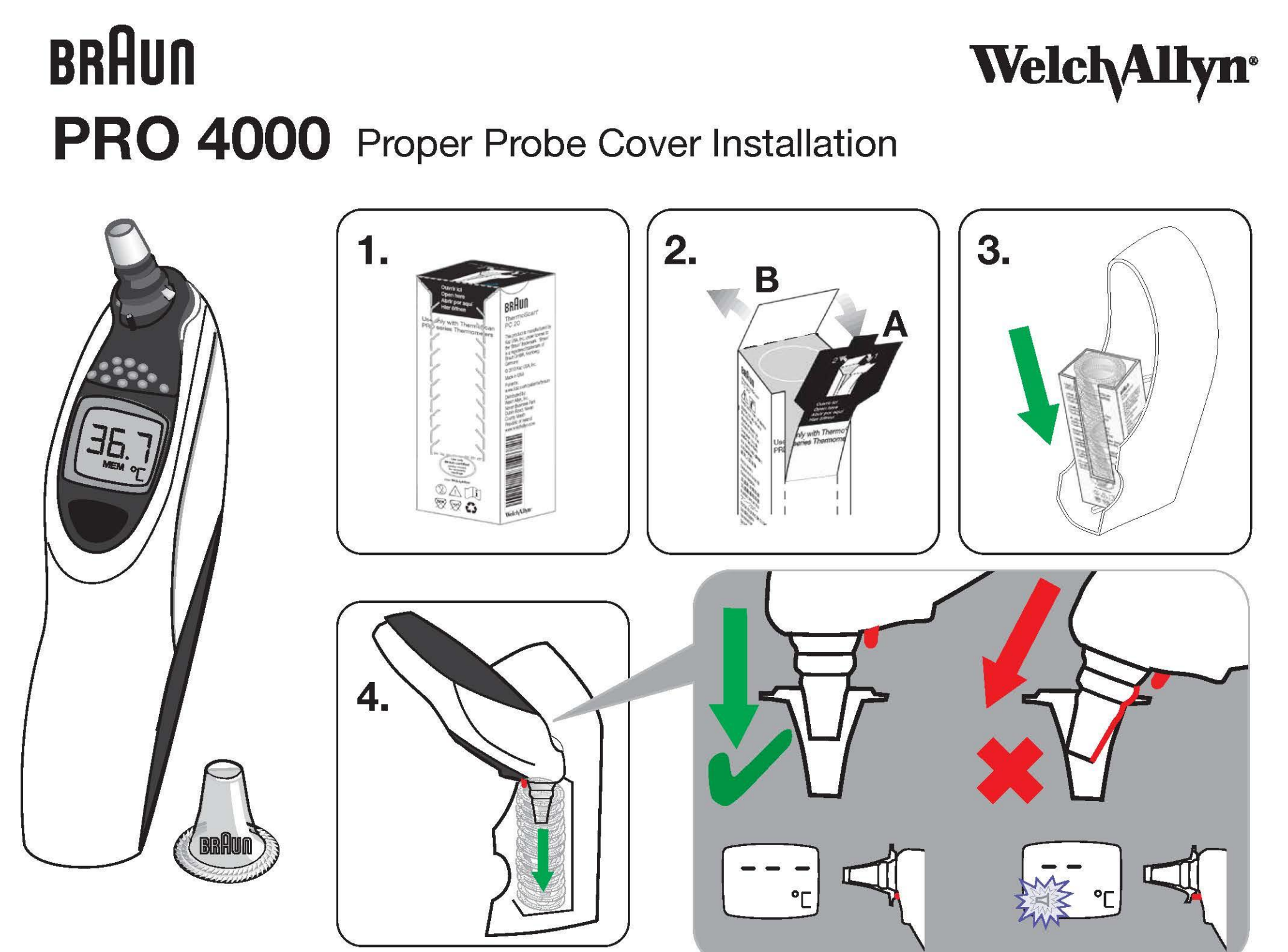
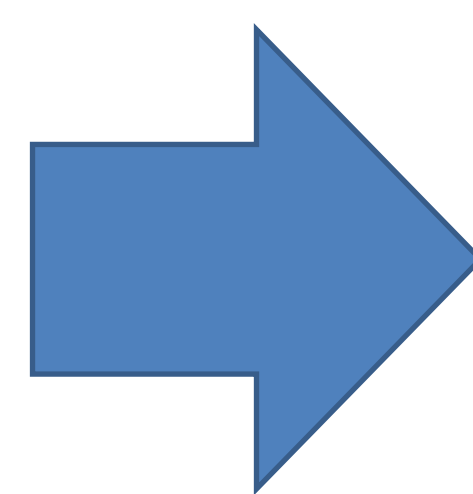
MMD invited the vendor for discussion to determine the root cause of the damage. After reviewing the product instruction manual, the conclusion was that users inadvertently discharged the used ear probe incorrectly, hence breaking the ejection ring.

Solution

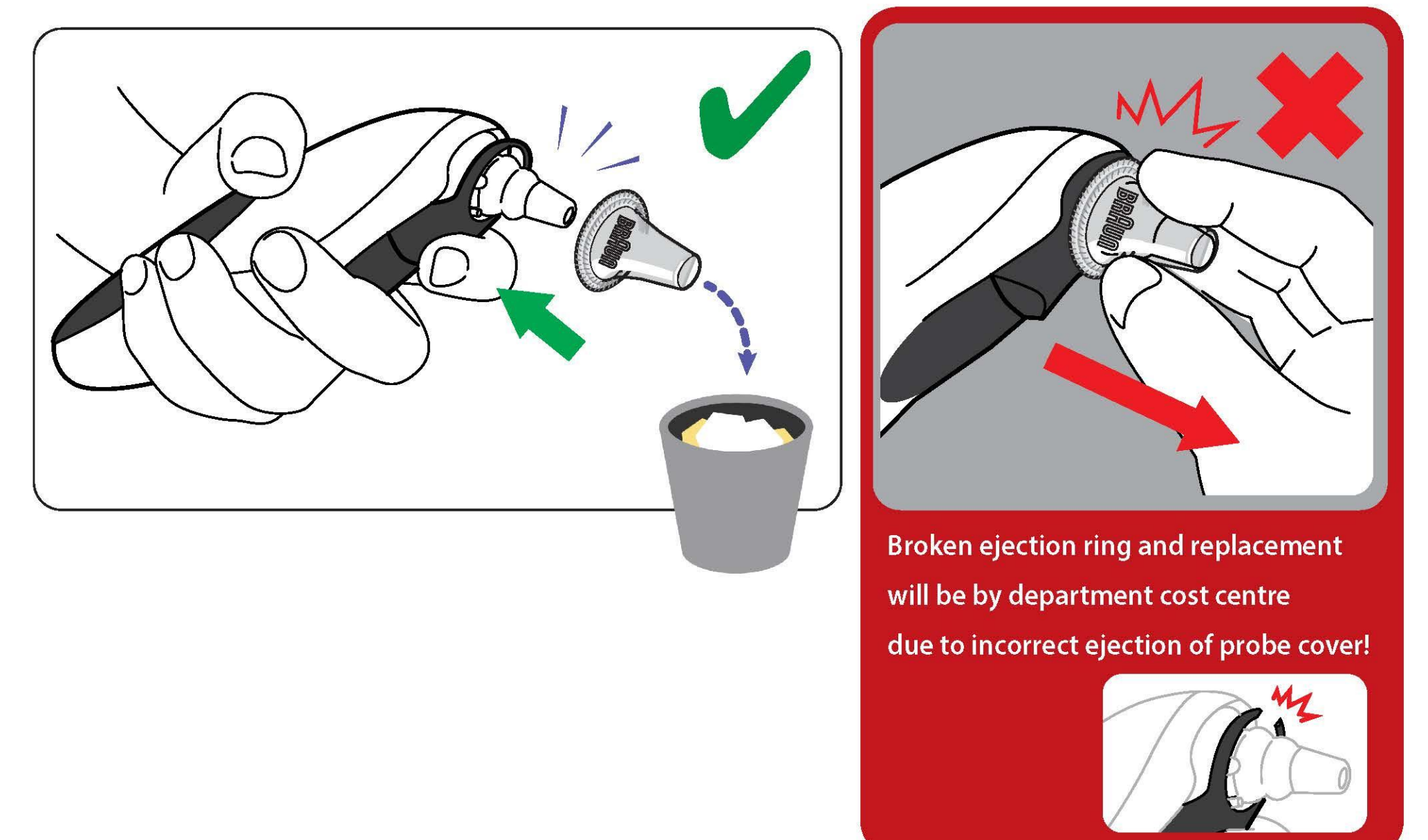
The team decided to create a poster to remind users how to properly discharge used ear probes.

A softcopy of the poster was provided to Nurse's Development Unit for use as part of training materials. A softcopy will also be sent to all Nurse Managers to share with staff.

A handy A5 size of the poster was distributed to departments as point of use reminders.



Proper Probe Cover Removal



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Conclusion

Reduction of damaged ear thermometers enables MMD to reduce the stock holding of ear thermometers. Thus, reducing inventory and replacement costs.

Departments have higher availability of the ear thermometers.

In addition, in terms of infection control, it is not good practice to touch used ear probes

