

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The Spina Bifida Association and Codman & Shurtleff, Inc., [TANDY]
Announce Release of the *When to Call the Doctor* Laminated Card**

Washington, D.C. – The Spina Bifida Association (SBA) and Codman, a Johnson & Johnson Company, have partnered to develop the *When to Call the Doctor* card, a 3x5 two-sided laminated card outlining signs of hydrocephalus shunt malfunction in infants, toddlers, children and adults.

Hydrocephalus occurs when the brain does not drain cerebrospinal fluid resulting in the need for shunt implants to remove it. While the evolution of shunt products has yielded exceptional devices for hydrocephalus patients, often times the shunt may not function properly, leaving patients at risk for fatal consequences. As many as 80 percent of people with Spina Bifida have hydrocephalus; therefore, educating the Spina Bifida Community on the early warning signs was seen as vitally important.

Through surveys of the Spina Bifida population and analysis of the most frequently requested materials, the SBA learned that managing hydrocephalus is a significant concern of people living with Spina Bifida. Patients and their loved ones are anxious to identify the symptoms of life-threatening shunt malfunctions and complications and to address them swiftly. Recognizing a need to have life-saving information available to the Spina Bifida Community, Codman and the SBA joined forces.

“The opportunity for the SBA to work with Codman on this project was invaluable. They continue to stand out as an experienced leader in neuroscience, and the development and distribution of this card will help us to respond to our Community’s concerns about the recognizable signs of shunt malfunction,” said Cindy Brownstein, Chief Executive Officer of the SBA.

“With this card we hope to allay the fears of parents and adults who don’t immediately recognize the signs of possible malfunction,” said Ken Bruener, Product Director, Hydrocephalus, at Codman.

The card is available through the Spina Bifida Association’s Web site. Please visit www.spinabifidaassociation.org for more information.