It was decided that a patient needed to be put on VV ECMO in a semi elective situation in PICU. Perfusion prepared a circuit and primed it [the circuit] with plasmalyte. The circuit used was the Maquet BE-PLS-2051 set. I noted a small amount of clear fluid drip on to the floor but on further examination could not find where it came from an was unable to see any more fluid. When blood priming commenced and flows increased prior to patient being cannulated we saw more obvious drops of blood coming from a vent port at the bottom of the oxygenator. The company was phoned and it was advised that a small percentage of these oxygenators were affected due to a defect in the ‘mats’ within the oxygenator and they recommended that if it was safe to do so to change the oxygenator out. We opened another ECMO pack of the same type and lot number and changed out the oxy and uneventfully continued with the procedure and safely initiated ECMO. Lot number 70099866

Contributing factors: No
Corrective action: Communication with the company and change out of the oxygenator prior to ECMO commencing
Preventative action plan: None - company reported that this fault occurred in a small percentage of stock and are now confident that the new stock does not have the same fault
Manufacturer advised: Yes
Discussed with team: Yes
Ext Authority Advised: No
Patient outcome variance: Nil