



Patient Safety Alert

Stage Three: Directive
*Non-Luer spinal
 (intrathecal) devices
 for chemotherapy*
 20 February 2014

Analysis of stakeholder engagement responses

Alert reference number: NHS/PSA/D/2014/002

Alert stage: Three - Directive

A stakeholder engagement exercise took place between 18 November – 8 December 2013. A draft patient safety alert was issued and a survey was hosted on the NHS England stakeholder website.

Results

All total of 78 responses were received from 53 different organisations. A list of organisation submitting response is listed in the appendix.

Table 1

Responses were received from the following organisations Multiple responses were received from some organisations	Responses	%
Acute Trust	64	82.1
Healthcare Commissioning Organisation	5	6.4
Public	1	1.3
Independent sector	1	1.3
Medical Devices Industry	1	1.3
Professional Organisation	1	1.3
Healthcare Regulator	2	2.6
UK Healthcare provider organisation outside of England	1	1.3
Unknown	2	2.6
Total	78	100.0

Table 2

Responder Type	Responses	%
Consultant anaesthetist	25	32.1
Pharmacist	19	24.4
Nurse	9	11.5
Consultant haematologist	7	9.0
Consultant paediatric oncologist	4	5.1
Manager	4	5.1
Consultant Physician	1	1.3
Healthcare commissioner	5	6.4
Public	1	1.3
Senior pharmacy technician	1	1.3
Senior medical device specialist	1	1.3
Unknown	1	1.3
Total	78	100.0

Table 3

Answers to questions from 78 responses	Yes responses	%
All spinal (intrathecal) chemotherapy bolus doses should be performed using syringes and needles and other devices with non-Luer connectors.	69	88.5
All lumbar puncture procedures should be performed using non-Luer devices.	60	76.9
Evaluate locally and take action to minimise any potential practice risks arising from the use of the new devices.	67	85.9
Continued use of non-compliant devices for chemotherapy will be exceptional, well documented and will appear on the organisations risk register.	63	80.1
Is three months sufficient time to implement the recommendations in this Alert?	41	52.6

Key issues arising from stakeholder responses

1. Diagnostic lumbar puncture

A number of respondents did not support the need for organisations, who do not provide spinal chemotherapy services, to have to change to non-Luer devices for diagnostic lumbar puncture in advance of the introduction of non-Luer devices for anaesthetic and non-chemotherapeutic procedures when a full range of these devices becomes available.

This concern was acknowledged and inclusion of the non-Luer devices for diagnostic lumbar puncture was removed from the final alert. However, the requirements in NPSA/2009/PSA004A and NPSA/2011/PSA001 remain unchanged.

2. Time to implement the guidance

Many respondents indicated that three months was insufficient time to implement the use of non-Luer devices for spinal (intrathecal) chemotherapy and more time was required.

This concern was acknowledged and the Alert was amended to recommend that the guidance should be introduced as soon as possible but no later than six months from the date the Alert was published.

Appendix

Organisations who took part in the stakeholder engagement on Non-Luer spinal (intrathecal) devices For chemotherapy.

- Association of Anaesthetists.
- Alder Hey Children's NHS FT.
- Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Trust.
- Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.
- Care Quality Commission.
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital.
- Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.
- Croydon Healthcare Services Trust.
- Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- East & SE England Specialist Pharmacy Services.
- Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust.
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.
- Hillingdon Hospital.
- HSSD Guernsey.
- Ipswich Hospital.
- Isle of Wight NHS Trust.
- Kettering General Hospital.
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.
- MHRA.
- Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust.
- NHS England Area Teams.
- NHS England Thames Valley.
- NHS WHSCT.
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS FT.
- Northampton General Hospital.
- Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust.
- Poole hospital.
- Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Royal Cornwall Hospitals.
- Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust.
- Royal Marsden Hospital.
- Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.
- Sandwell and Birmingham Trust.
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Shropshire County CCG.
- Smiths Medical.
- South Sussex Commissioning Support Unit.
- Taunton and Somerset Hospital.
- The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- The London Clinic.
- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust.
- UCLPPS.
- United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust.
- University Hospital North Staffordshire.
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.
- Unknown.
- Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.
- West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.