

National Patient Safety Alert: Supply disruption of sterile infusion sets and connectors manufactured by Becton Dickinson (BD)
(NatPSA/2021/001/MHRA)

Information and Access to Resources

What are the priority actions for organisations in reviewing the [NPSA alert \(https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103150\)](https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103150) and what are the risks associated with the use of this equipment?

Answer:

The alert requires organisations to review all IV products in use within the organisation. You should consider including your local pharmacy team, infection prevention & control and clinical speciality leads in your review so you can consider a range of options linked to your local protocols for resource shortage escalation or contingency.

The NPSA alert states that patients should not be disconnected from infusions that are running and consideration should be given to the clinical need to continue IV therapies for patients while reviewing and balancing options. In reviewing options organisations may want to consider:

- the availability and selection of alternative pumps;
- requirements for standard/specialist infusion sets to use with this equipment;
- plans for any training and competency requirements.

Plans to change equipment should be agreed with input from a range of clinical teams across the organisation as suggested above.

To support your local risk assessment the PHE Healthcare Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance Division has undertaken a rapid risk assessment comprising review of routine surveillance data and information held by the national opportunistic pathogens laboratory. This review was undertaken on 11th March 2021 and covered the previous decade, including the 5 years that products covered by the Field Safety Notice were in use. PHE have published the following conclusion to this review:

This rapid assessment has not identified evidence of an increase in intravenous line-related infections over the period of concern that might be consistent with

a widespread contamination event. A sustained contamination at source that evaded recognition for many years is considered unlikely but small and intermittent contamination events cannot be excluded.

Remember to record your risk assessment in writing.

We have identified that we use some of the products and equipment listed in the Patient Safety Alert; how do I identify what alternatives are available and then order or access replacement equipment and consumables?

Answer:

Information regarding alternatives for affected product codes is available from the NHS Supply Chain Important Customer Notice which can be accessed by clicking this [link \(https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/icn/becton-dickinson-uk-ltd-administration-sets/\)](https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/icn/becton-dickinson-uk-ltd-administration-sets/)

You may also want to consider mutual aid and support from local organisations who may be able to offer alternative devices or training/competency support.

Does the patient safety alert cover all of the current range of Alaris products I use in my organisation?

Answer:

We would recommend that you check all product codes in use against the field safety notice, if the product is not listed then you can continue to use this product safely, the full range of affected codes can be accessed from the MHRA website by clicking this [link \(https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/national-patient-safety-alert-supply-disruption-of-sterile-infusion-sets-and-connectors-manufactured-by-becton-dickinson-bd-natpsa-slash-2021-slash-001-slash-mhra\)](https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/national-patient-safety-alert-supply-disruption-of-sterile-infusion-sets-and-connectors-manufactured-by-becton-dickinson-bd-natpsa-slash-2021-slash-001-slash-mhra) and further information can also be found on the [NHS Supply Chain Important Customer Notice \(ICN\) \(https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/icn/becton-dickinson-uk-ltd-administration-sets/\)](https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/icn/becton-dickinson-uk-ltd-administration-sets/)

We would like to access supplier information and resources to support our local review of the types of equipment available and training tools. Is there one point of access to review this?

Answer:

We have consolidated a range of pump supplier resources and contact information to enable easy access to a range of information that can support local decision making and training needs assessments. This can be accessed from the National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS) website by clicking this [Link](https://nivas.org.uk/) (https://nivas.org.uk/)

We are assessing the options to increase use of gravity or bolus infusions, is there any guidance that can support our review for Adult Infusions?

Answer:

The specialist pharmacy service has updated its information on use of gravity infusions and bolus injections in adults which will help inform local decision making. This can be accessed by clicking this [Link](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/using-gravity-infusions-and-bolus-injections-in-adults/) (https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/using-gravity-infusions-and-bolus-injections-in-adults/)

Operational message to Trusts concerning issues with supply of Beckton Dickinson (BD) Administration Sets for Volumetric Pumps and Syringe Drivers (Infusion Devices)