

# Safety Action Notice

Reference **SAN(SC)20/06**

Issued **08 April 2020**

Review Date **08 April 2021**

## **National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS) recommend to reserve use of 50ml luer lock syringes for critical care infusion pumps during COVID-19 pandemic**

### Summary

NIVAS recommend that, due to high demand, the use of 50ml luer lock syringes should be reserved for critical care infusion pumps and use of 10ml, 20ml and 30ml syringe (luer-slip or luer-lock) is advocated, where possible, when giving bolus drugs manually.

### Action

- Bring this notice to the attention of all appropriate managers and staff involved in providing IV therapy administration
- Reserve 50ml luer-lock syringes for critical care syringe infusion pumps to avoid stocks running low. NIVAS advocate the use of a 10ml, 20ml or 30ml syringe (luer-slip or luer-lock) where possible when giving bolus drugs manually

#### Action by

- Medical Directors
- Medical Physics Technical Managers
- Clinical Care Leads
- Procurement Managers
- All staff involved in IV therapy administration

**Deadlines for action:** Immediate

### Equipment Details

50ml luer lock syringes, 10ml, 20ml and 30ml syringe (luer-slip or luer-lock)

### Problem / background

NIVAS have produced guidance (see Reference section) for gravity and bolus IV therapy administration during the COVID-19 outbreak. It is aimed at supporting practice during a time when infusion and syringe pumps are limited or not available in order to continue administering IV therapy using gravity or bolus push.

NIVAS have written this guidance (see Reference section) in partnership with the Medusa online injectable medicines guide and the NHS specialist pharmacy service.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, use of gravity infusions and bolus injections for intravenous use in adults may be more necessary than normal. Gravity infusion sets may be routinely used in adults for:

- Infusion fluids given alone
- Infusion fluids with a medicine added where rate of administration does not need to be tightly controlled to prevent adverse effects

The guidance also lists medicines which may be added to infusions and given via gravity or which may be given by intravenous bolus injection (see Reference section).

Additionally NIVAS advocate the use of a 10ml, 20ml or 30ml syringe (luer-slip or luer-lock) when giving bolus drugs manually, where possible, and ask organisations to reserve the 50ml luer-lock syringes for critical care syringe infusion pumps to avoid future stocks running low.

## Distribution

- Medical Directors
- Medical Physics Technical Managers
- Clinical Care Leads
- Procurement Managers
- All staff involved in IV therapy administration

## References

1. NIVAS guidance on use of gravity infusions and bolus injection in adults during COVID-19 (including a list of medicines that can be used):  
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/use-of-gravity-infusions-and-bolus-injections-in-adults-during-covid-19/>
2. NIVAS summary of COVID-19 medicines recommendations from professional bodies:  
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/summary-of-covid-19-medicines-recommendations-from-professional-bodies/>

## Enquiries

Enquiries (and adverse incident reports) in Scotland should be addressed to:

### **Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC)**

NHS National Services Scotland

Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB

Tel: 0131 275 7575 Email: [nss.irc@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.irc@nhs.scot)

Report options are available on the HFS website: [How to report an Adverse Incident](#)  
Further information about reporting incidents can be found in [CEL 43 \(2009\)](#) or by contacting IRIC at the above address.