

To:  
Trusts Chief Executives  
(for onward cascade as per the attached  
distribution list)  
All GP practices

Tel : 028 9536 3375  
Fax : 028 9536 1166  
Web Site : [www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Our Ref: ICPL-2017-019

Dear Colleague,

### **Supply route for Insulin Safety Needles**

Insulin safety needles may be used when healthcare workers are administering insulin to patients who are unable to self-administer. They are used to prevent needle stick injuries and to ensure the protection of healthcare workers.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that Trust healthcare workers and GPs are aware of the correct mechanism for ordering supplies of these needles.

There has recently been a regional procurement exercise within the Trusts and the safety needle of choice is BD Autosshield®.

As these safety needles are for the protection of Trust staff they should, therefore, be ordered via Trust stock by eProcurement and NOT ordered via a patient's HS21 prescription

### **Action for GP Practices:**

Prescriptions for safety needles (brands include BD Autosshield®, Mylife Clickfine Autoprotect® and Novofine Autocover®) should NOT be issued on a HS21 for individual patients, except in such circumstances where a patient's insulin is being administered by a non-health care worker e.g. a designated carer or relative. GP Practices should identify patients who are currently being prescribed safety needles and if their insulin is being administered by a district nurse, they should contact the relevant nurse and advise of the correct arrangements for ordering safety needles. When the new supply arrangement is in place, the GP practice should stop issuing further prescriptions for safety needles.

**Action for Trust staff:**

Please ensure that when safety needles are required, for the administration of insulin to a patient, suitable quantities are ordered via Trust stock supplies. The eProcurement code for ordering is FNJ000001.

If you have any queries on this letter, please contact HSCB Pharmacy Adviser, Breege Brogan (breege.brogan@hscni.net)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Asst Director Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**

Cc Regional Diabetes Network