

To:
**Trust Chief Executives
(for onward cascade as per the
attached**

**Distribution list)
All GP Practices**

All nursing homes

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18th May 2021

Dear Colleague,

Supply route for Insulin Safety Needles and Safety Lancets

Insulin safety needles may be used when healthcare workers are administering insulin to patients who are unable to self-administer.

Safety lancets are used to obtain a blood sample from patients, often for obtaining a blood glucose sample from patients with diabetes, prior to the administration of insulin.

Both 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, nursing homes and GPs are aware of the correct mechanism for ordering supplies of safety needles and safety lancets.

Action for Trust staff

Please ensure that when safety needles or safety lancets are required, suitable quantities are **ordered via Trust stock supplies from BSO** procurement and NOT ordered via HS21 prescription from the patient's GP. Details of the eProcurement ordering codes for these products, currently on contract are outlined in Appendix A.

Action for nursing homes

I previously wrote to nursing homes in December 2019 to highlight the correct route for ordering safety needles¹. The guidance is the same for safety lancets.

- Nursing homes who risk assess that their staff require to use safety needles and/or safety lancets should purchase and stock a supply of suitable insulin safety needles and/or safety lancets for use by their staff.
- Nursing homes should NOT request prescriptions for safety needles or safety lancets on a named patient basis from the patient's GP practice.

Action for GP Practices

- GP Practices should identify patients who are currently being prescribed safety lancets and/or safety needles. A list of branded safety needles and lancets, currently on the NI Drug Tariff are listed in Appendix B.
- If the patient's insulin is being administered by a district nurse, they should contact the relevant nurse and advise of the correct arrangements for ordering safety needles and/or safety lancets. When the new supply arrangement is in place, the GP practice should stop issuing further prescriptions for safety needles and/or safety lancets.
- If the patient resides in a nursing home, they should contact the relevant nursing home and advise of the correct arrangements for supply of safety needles and/or safety lancets. When the new supply arrangement is in place, the GP practice should stop issuing further prescriptions for safety needles and/or safety lancets.

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

Yours sincerely,
Joe Brogan



Joe Brogan
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Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

CC Regional Diabetes Network
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¹http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/download/PUBLICATIONS/pharmacy_and_medicines_management/correspondence/Supply-route-for-Insulin-Safety-Needles-2.pdf

Appendix A

eProcurement ordering codes for safety needles and safety lancets for HSC Trusts

Safety Needles

Name of safety Needle	Description	eProcurement ordering code
BD Autoshield®	5mm/30 gauge	FNJ000001

Safety lancets

Name of safety lancet	Description	eProcurement ordering code
Prolance®	18G 1.8mm Capillary blood sampling device Adult (high volume)	FTM000005
Unistik Gentle®	30G 1.5mm Capillary blood sampling Adult/Paediatric/Neo natal (low volume)	FTM000006
Unistik Neonatal®	18G 1.8mm Capillary blood sampling Paediatric (high volume)	FTM000003

Appendix B

Safety Lancet brands on N.Ireland Drug Tariff May 2021

- Apollo Pressure-Activated Safety Lancets[®]
- GlucoRx Safety lancets[®]
- Microdot Professional[®]
- Mylife Safety Comfort lancets[®]
- Mylife Safety lancets[®]
- Neon Verifine Safety Lancets[®]
- Safe-T-Lance Plus[®]
- Sarstedt Safety Lancets[®]
- Sterilance Lite II Safety Lancets[®]
- Unistik 3 Comfort[®]
- Unistik 3 Extra[®]
- Unistik 3 Gentle[®]
- Unistik 3 Normal[®]
- Unistik Touch[®]

Safety needle brands on N.Ireland Drug Tariff May 2021

- Ateria SafeControl Safety Pen Needles[®]
- BD AutoShield Duo[®]
- Dropsafe Safety Pen Needles[®]
- Dropsafe Safety Pen Needles[®]
- GlucoRx Safety Pen Needles[®]
- Microdot Dual Safety Pen Needles[®]
- Microdot Max Safety Pen Needles[®]
- Microdot Safety Pen Needles[®]
- Mylife Clickfine AutoProtect[®]
- Neon Verifine Safety[®]
- NovoFine Autocover[®]