





Launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of "Non-toxic healthcare" report

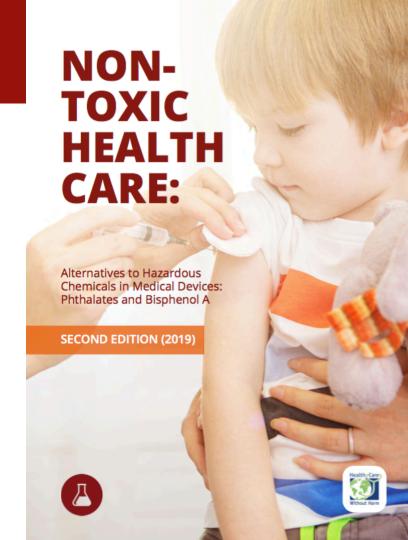


#### **Aim**

To accelerate the shift towards substitution of harmful substances within the European healthcare sector, supported by research, evidence, greater awareness and collaboration

First: do no harm

Prevention is always better than cure!





#### What's new?

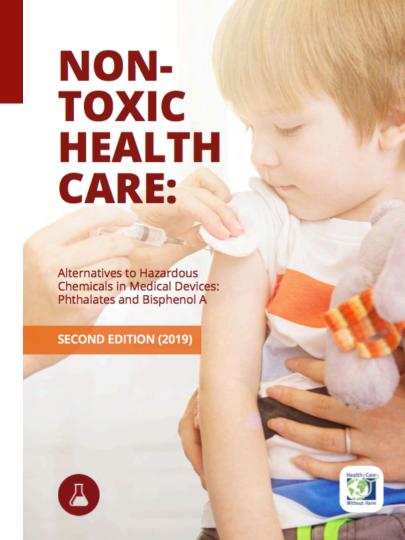
- ✓ New evidence on exposure through medical devices & hazard for human health
- ✓ Update on the European legal framework for hazardous chemicals (including EDCs) in medical devices
- ✓ Initiatives related to substitution / Best practices in European healthcare
- ✓ Update on the Safer Medical Devices Database by HCWH Europe
- ✓ Chapter 5: The health impact of plastics in healthcare





#### **Conclusions & Recommendations**

- ➤ A growing number of studies suggest that exposure through medical devices can be harmful for patients as they will be primarily from the vulnerable population
- Consistent technical implementation of Annex I.II.10.4 of the MDR must be ensured, in particular to protect the most vulnerable groups
- The precautionary principle should be applied so that hazardous chemicals are phased-out if safer alternatives are available and technically feasible

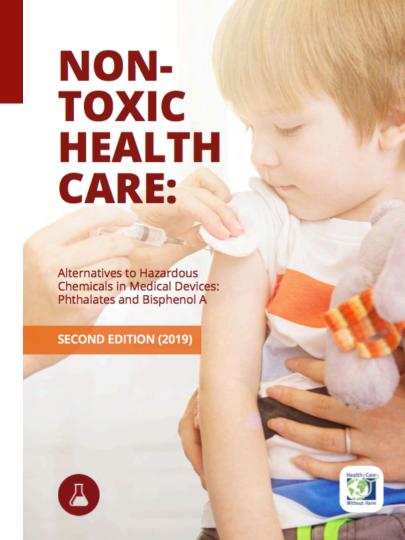




> The urgency to act on plastics

"When exposures to hazardous chemicals in medical devices can be avoided through careful selection of materials, not doing it is both unprofessional and undesirable"

Kambia et al. (2003)



#### Thank you!



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### Substitution with Safer Alternatives



How we can increase commitment and action from all stakeholders to reduce patients' exposure to EDCs, particularly for vulnerable groups?