



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

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# Safer Chemicals

## 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!

# NON-TOXIC HEALTH CARE:

Alternatives to Hazardous Chemicals in Medical Devices: Phthalates and Bisphenol A

SECOND EDITION (2019)





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## 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

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## 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

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- 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)

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Alternatives to Hazardous Chemicals in Medical Devices: Phthalates and Bisphenol A

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# 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?