

# Tackling harmful chemicals in medical devices Webinar 26 May 2021



## What I didn't know then....

Elaine Mead Director
Improvement, Care and Compassion







"By early 2012, we were able to convert virtually all of our IV medical equipment, including more than 9 million solution bags to PVC- and DEHP- free alternatives"

Cathy Gerwig
Greening Health Care

#### New words, new challenges

- DEHP
- Bisphenol A (BPA)
- Phthalates
- Net Zero



- Chemical impact on health from medical devices
- Impact of procurement decisions on the emissions from healthcare

# What I would have done then.....

- Found out if my unit was using medical devices with PVC & DEHP
- Spoken to my clinical colleagues about the research and impact
- Raised my concerns with the Chief Operating Officer
- Spoken to local company representatives and ask for advice about plastic free alternatives
- Worked with local procurement teams to find an alternative
- Talked to other health professionals about this issue



Ease of use



Ability to recycle



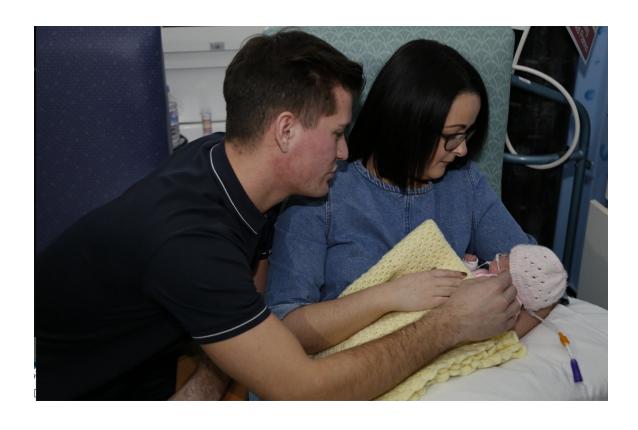


Long term impact

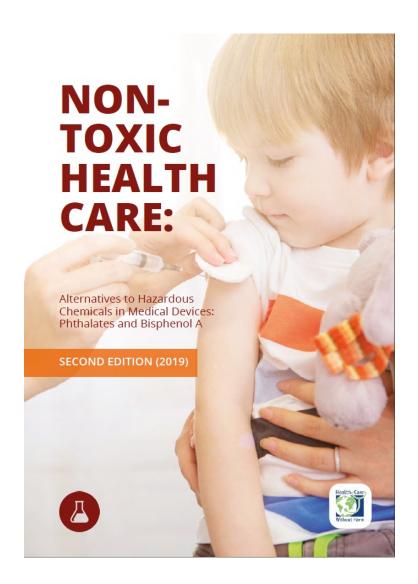


Cost

#### Unethical silence











#### Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

#### Safe use of medical devices with DEHP

MHRA is aware of some issues with plastics that contain DEHP, including:

- the possibility of the DEHP leaching from the PVC into solutions like blood or nutrition formulas
- birth defects and infertility in animals with certain doses of the phthalate



#### Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

### Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly-Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) conclusion

According to <u>SCENIHR in 2015</u> there is inconclusive or inconsistent evidence to suggest that medical devices containing DEHP pose an unacceptable health risk to humans, specifically to the reproductive health of men.

The report shows that medical devices containing plasticised PVC with DEHP have an important clinical benefit.

The committee stated that the potential for replacement of DEHP in these products should be considered against their efficiency in the treatment, as well as the toxicological profile and leaching properties of alternative plasticiser materials. The report stated that there is a strong need to develop and collect information about exposure to alternative materials in the conditions of use, to refine the knowledge on their toxicological profile and to develop other alternative materials with a favourable profile for both efficiency and safety.



France
Austria
Denmark
Sweden
Czech Republic
Slovakia
Italy
Netherlands



# What you can do now

- Check out local use of plastics in healthcare in your organisation
- Raise your concerns with the Chief Executive
- Raise your concerns with the local company representatives and ask for PVC- and DEHPfree alternatives
- Consider participation in research into alternative materials
- Talk to other health professionals about this issue
- Mobilise your professional bodies









#### 1.3 million staff England





# SUSTAINABLE GALS DEVELOPMENT GALS





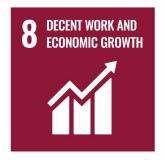


































# Thank you!

