



Tackling harmful chemicals in medical devices
Webinar 26 May 2021



What I didn't know then....

Elaine Mead Director
Improvement, Care and Compassion



Y2K





“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

The humble giving-set



such controversy



Long term impact



Cost

Unethical silence



NON-TOXIC HEALTH CARE:

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

SECOND EDITION (2019)





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

Advice at 25 May 2021



Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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

According to [SCENIHR in 2015](#) 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 DEHP-free alternatives
 - Consider participation in research into alternative materials
 - Talk to other health professionals about this issue
 - Mobilise your professional bodies
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**HEALTH
DECLARES**



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HEALTHCARE**
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NHS



1.3 million staff England



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY




6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





Thank you!

