

Document Control

Title Anaesthetic Trolleys (Injectable Medicines and Equipment) Standard Operating Procedure			
Author		Author's job title Manager - Anaesthetic Support Services Lead Pharmacist, Surgery	
Directorate Planned Care		Department Theatres	Team/Specialty Theatres
Version	Date Issued	Status	Comment / Changes / Approval
0.1	April 2018	Draft	Initial version for consultation drafted by Joy Davey, following meeting with Andy Edwards 10-04-18
0.2	April 2018	Draft	Amendments made, following further discussion with Andy Edwards and Nick Love – tray colours confirmed
0.3	May 2018	Draft	Final amendments made, following review by Andy Edwards, Manager – Anaesthetic Support Services. RCoA reference also added.
0.4	May 2018	Draft	Further final amendments made, following review by Trust Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine. For submission to Trust Drug and Therapeutics Committee.
1.0	May 2018	Final	Approved by Trust Drug and Therapeutics Committee 17 th May 2018
2.0	May 2021	Final	Lilac tray colour changed to red, in line with national recommendations for vasopressors; requested by anaesthetists and agreed at anaesthetic M&M meeting. Registered Operating Department Practitioners wording amended in 'Scope' to include theatre nurses; anaesthetists added. For approval at Medicines Management Group May 2021
Main Contact Manager – Anaesthetic Support Services Main Theatres North Devon District Hospital Raleigh Park Barnstaple, EX31 4JB		Tel: Direct Dial – Tel: Internal – Email:	
Lead Director Medical Director			
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<p>Consulted with the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager - Anaesthetic Support Services • Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine Governance Lead • Lead Pharmacist – Surgery • Medicines Governance Group members • Drug and Therapeutics Committee members 	<p>Contact responsible for implementation and monitoring compliance: Andy Edwards</p>
<p>Education/ training will be provided by: Andy Edwards</p>	
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1. Background

- 1.1. In September 2017, an incident involving the mis-selection of an injectable medicine occurred within the Trust.
- 1.2. The incident involved the mis-selection, preparation and subsequent administration of metaraminol injection, instead of the neuromuscular reversal agent (glycopyrrolate and neostigmine).
- 1.3. The investigation of the incident identified a number of contributory factors to the overall root cause – the mis-selection and mis-reading of injection ampoule by the practitioner concerned.
- 1.4. Anaesthetic theatre trolleys were found to be disorganised, non-standardised across NDHT theatres with some individual injections taken out of the original, external packaging.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has therefore been written to:
 - Define the standards for anaesthetic theatre trolleys used in NDDH, following a Serious Incident Requiring Investigation (SIRI), as outlined in Section 1.
 - Support organisation learning from the incident and subsequent investigation;
 - Prevent future incidents, by improving the organisation anaesthetic theatre trolleys, and thus reducing the risk of the mis-selection of injections.

3. Scope

- 3.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) relates to the following staff groups who are be involved in setting up, checking, maintaining and auditing anaesthetic theatre trolleys :
 - Registered Anaesthetists
 - Registered Theatre Practitioners, qualified and competent to assist with an anaesthetic
 - Student Operating Department Practitioners working as part of their undergraduate training programme, working within current competencies

4. Location

- 4.1. This Standard Operating Procedure has been agreed to be implemented in the following settings:
- Main Theatres, level 3 NDDH
 - Day Surgery Unit, level 2 NDDH
 - Satellite Theatres 7, 8 and Vanguard Theatre 12
- 4.2. Operating Department Practitioners working to this standard operating procedure must be able to demonstrate continued competence as per the organisations policy on assessing and maintaining competence.

5. Equipment

- Anaesthetic theatre trolleys
- Anaesthetic theatre trolley storage drawers (colours as below) and clear dividers:
 - Red – emergency / essential injectable medicines
 - Blue (1) – regularly used / standard injectable medicines
 - Blue (2) – consumables – syringes, needles and drug labels
 - Clear – equipment required during procedures
- Injection trays to be used for prepared injectable medicines, prior to administration*:
 - Yellow tray = non-intravenous, local anaesthetic syringes and epidural opioids
 - Red tray = vasopressors
 - Blue tray = everything else (all other intravenous syringes)
- In addition to the equipment listed above, each anaesthetic theatre trolley will have an absorbent pad laid on the top of the trolley and will have a disposal bag and sharps bin attached, for safe disposal of sharps and other waste, as used during the procedure.

** Other injection trays were investigated but were considered impractical, too flimsy, wasteful and / or expensive to implement.*

6. Procedure

- Anaesthetic theatre trolleys in the locations specified in Section 4 are arranged and organised according to the specification set out in Appendix 1.
- In addition to the layout and stock set out in Appendix 1, smaller colour coded injection trays will be placed on top of the anaesthetic theatre trolley, ready for the practitioner to place prepared, labelled injections prior to administration as follows:
 - Yellow tray = local anaesthetic syringes and epidural opioids
 - Red tray = vasopressors
 - Blue tray = everything else (essentially all intravenous syringes)

- At the end of the day, each anaesthetic theatre trolley will be cleaned checked, tidied, ready to re-stocking;
- It is the responsibility of the Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) to re-stock each anaesthetic theatre trolley daily, who completes the night duty checklist, ready for the following day.

7. Review

- 7.1. This is the first version of the Standard Operating Procedure to be produced, following the incident.
- 7.2. Clinical Governance Lead for Anaesthetics may wish to review and rearrange the trolleys / trays, but will ensure standardisation across all NDHT theatres.
- 7.3. Any changes will be included in an updated version of the SOP, which will be communicated to theatre staff, via departmental governance meetings.

8. References

- National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) – Patient Safety Alert 20. Promoting safer use of injectable medicines. March 2007.
- Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland: [Syringe labelling in critical care areas review 2014 \(updated November 2016\)](#)
- Anaesthesia discussion forum: Time for mandatory colour coding of drug ampoules and packaging – yet again [link](#) accessed online 18-04-18.
- Colour coded syringe labels – List of injectable medicines labels produced by Walters Medical. [Link](#) accessed online 18-04-18. [Website link](#)
- Almghairbi DS, Sharp L, Griffiths R, Evley R, Gupta S, Moppett IK. An observational feasibility study of a new anaesthesia drug storage tray. *Anaesthesia*. 2018 Mar;73(3):356-364. doi: 10.1111/anae.14187. Epub 2018 Jan 3. [Link](#) accessed online 11-04-18.
- Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA); the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) 2016: Storage of Drugs in Anaesthetic Rooms. [Link](#) accessed online 18-04-18

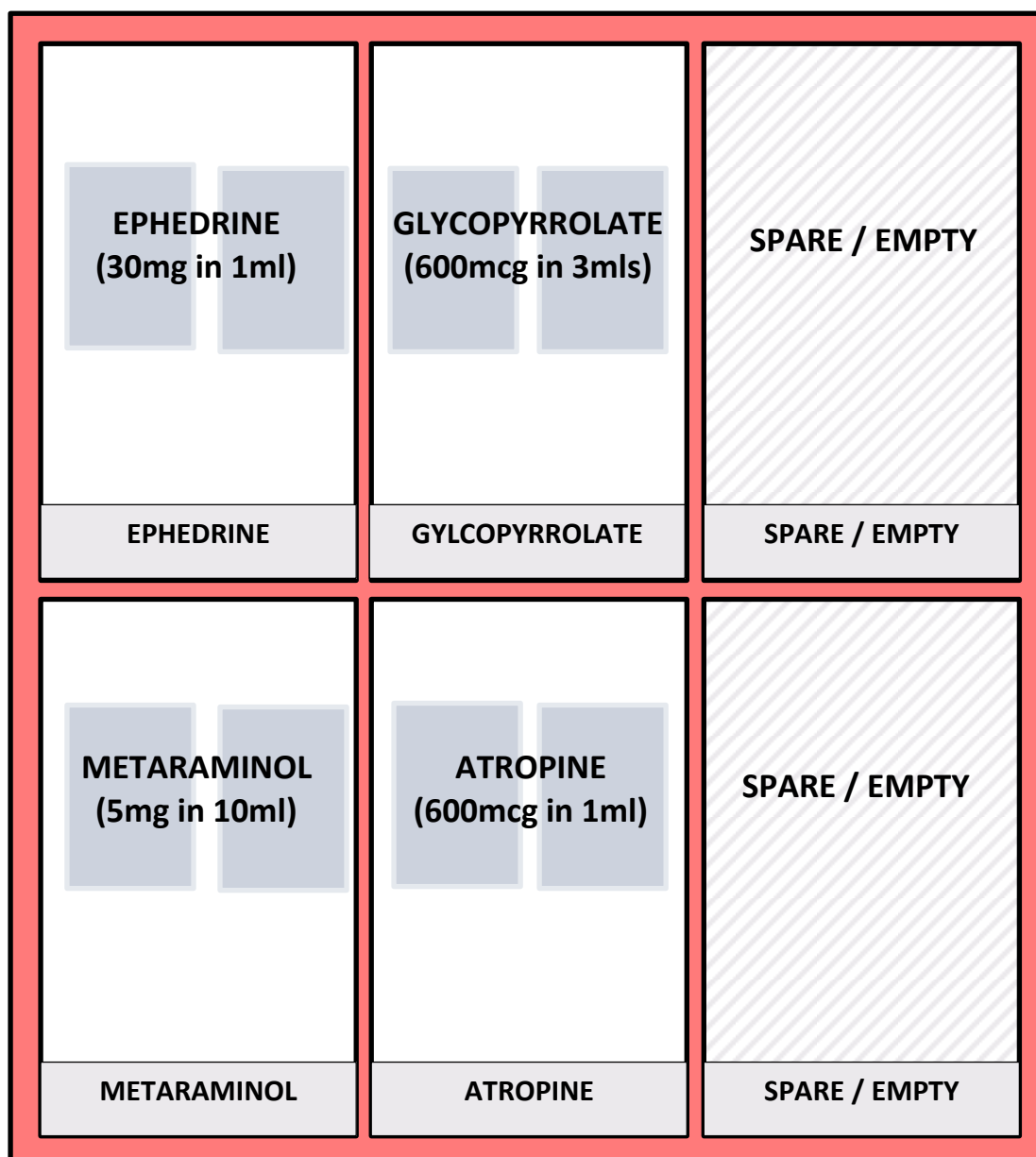
9. Associated Documentation

- 9.1. Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Policies and Procedures :
- Trust Medicines Policy and associated Standard Operating Procedures
 - Trust Injectable Medicines Policy and associated Standard Operating Procedures
 - Trust Infection Prevention and Control Operational Policy
 - Standard Infection Control Precautions Policy
 - Decontamination of Reusable Equipment - Standard Operating Procedure (A-Z Cleaning Guide)
 - Trust Waste Management Policy and Waste Management Manual

Appendix 1: Standardised anaesthetic theatre trolley specification

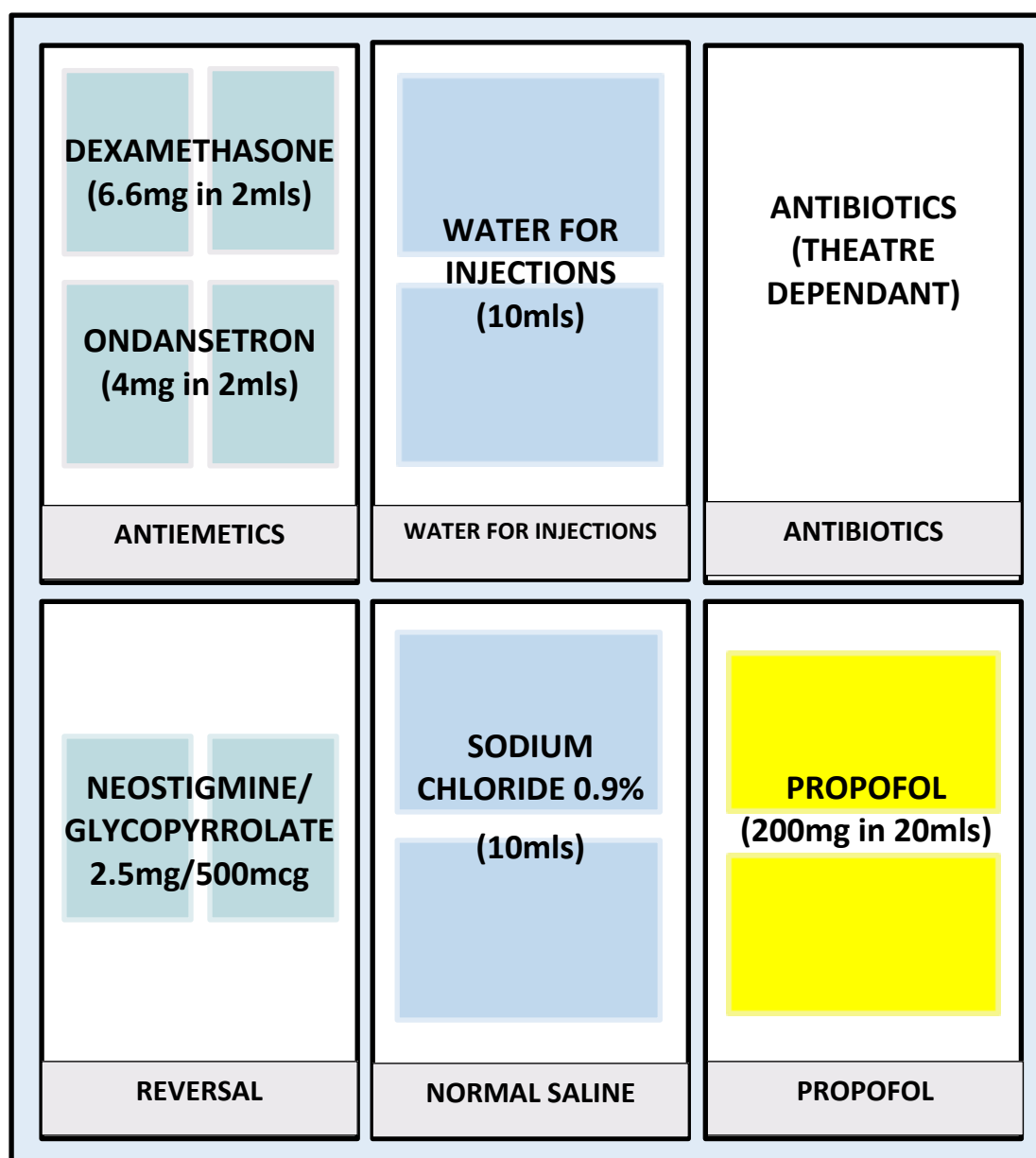
RED Top Drawer (Emergency/Essential Injections)

Individual compartments are labelled (highlighted in grey), to show where which injection is stored



BLUE Second Drawer (Regularly used / standard injections)

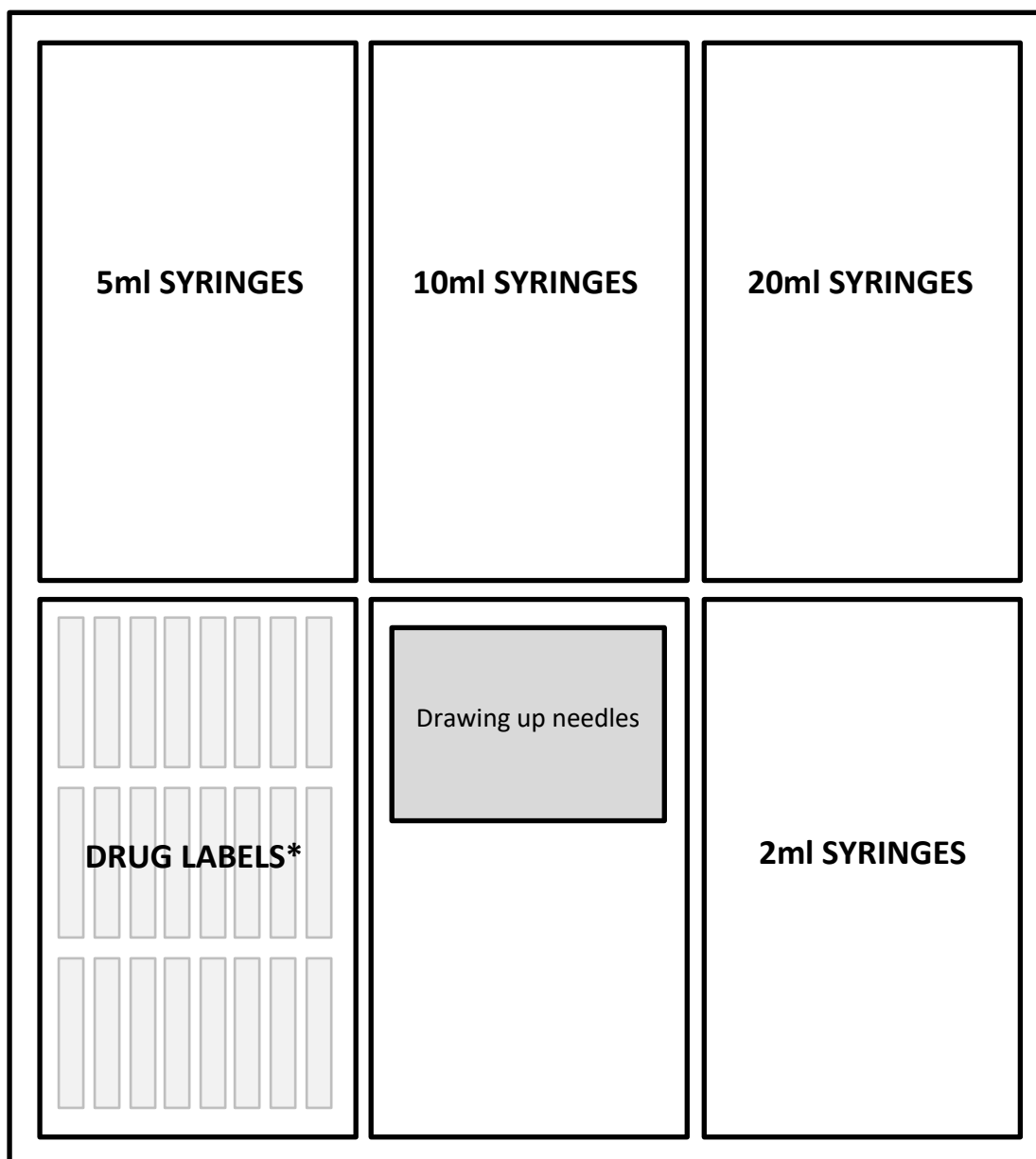
Individual compartments are labelled (highlighted in grey), to show where which injection is stored



Antibiotics by theatre:

- **Theatres 1 and 2**
 - Gentamicin
 - Teicoplanin
- **Theatres 3 and 4**
 - Gentamicin
 - Co-amoxiclav
- **Theatres 7 and 8**
 - Cefuroxime
 - Co-amoxiclav

BLUE Third Drawer – Consumables



***Drug labels for trolley:**

- Fentanyl
- Morphine
- Glycopyrrolate
- Atropine
- Metaraminol
- Ephedrine
- Reversal
- Ondansetron
- Dexamethasone
- Atracurium
- Rocuronium
- Suxamethonium
- 0.9% NaCl
- Gentamicin
- Teicoplanin
- Co-amoxiclav
- Cefuroxime

CLEAR Fourth Drawer – Equipment

