

Patient Safety ALERT: Plastipak™ 50ml Luer Lok Syringes

There is a **risk of delay or interruption to treatment** when affected Plastipak™ 50ml Luer Lok syringes are used in power-driven syringe pumps including PCAs. The problem is currently being investigated by the manufacturer BD Medical and is understood to be a national problem.

The types of incidents reported in this Trust include:

- **PCAs alarming false occlusions, and**
- **Continuous infusions not infusing at correct rate.**

As a temporary measure, PCA pumps have had their occlusion level increased to 7 (previously 6) but this increases the risk of phlebitis.

FOR ACTION:

Ensure that ALL STAFF are aware of the importance of checking and monitoring infusions using these syringes including VIP score monitoring.

Complete an incident form and contact Steve Bentley (EMBE ext 2766) or Kathleen Wedgeworth (ext 2440/bleep 280) if you identify any problems.