

Core brief

Thursday 26 October 2017

Introduction

This issue of Core Brief details the switchover date to sharps safety devices and a nurse director open session at the QEUH.

Switchover date to sharps safety devices – action needed now

As part of our efforts to reduce needlestick injuries to all staff and others, we are required under legislation to use safety versions of sharps as standard practice.

Where a safety version of a specific sharp is available, the non-safe (without safety features) version should only be used where there are sound clinical reasons and when accompanied by an appropriate risk assessment. The risk assessment must document why the safe version cannot be used and what safe systems are in place to minimise the risk of needlestick injury to staff and others. The risk assessment should be sent to the Health and Safety Service. (Health.Safety@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

We already use a range of safe sharps across the organisation. To ensure full compliance, it has now been agreed to introduce a system-wide change over to safety devices **on 1st December 2017**.

From this date, Procurement will supply safer sharps to all areas as standard where available. Specific processes will be put in place to ensure that areas who require the non-safety versions of the devices will be able to continue to order them, via the risk assessment process.

Procurement have estimated that most areas hold up to 20 days stock. **The stock of non-safety versions should therefore be run down** in preparation for the switch over to the safer devices. A Product Information Bulletin and spreadsheet detailing the safety versions of [a range of sharps is available here](#).

Please note that the requirements for staff who utilise sharps to be trained via Learnpro is ongoing and we would further remind staff that such training is mandatory, and this has been further endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive.

All clinical staff who use sharps or may come into contact with sharps should undertake the associated training on Learnpro.

Board nurse director open session, Thursday 2 November at 2.00pm, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Level 9, Seminar/Education Room WS9-033

Dr Margaret McGuire, the Board Nurse Director invites nurses and midwives to meet her and hear

about ongoing work, opportunities and priorities within NHSGGC and nationally.

In addition, these 45 minute sessions will offer staff the opportunity to discuss issues important to them and share and learn from each other. These informal sessions will help us to work together in order to improve care for our patients and communities.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check