

| Safety Pen Needles Position Statement | | |
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| V1 | Last reviewed: June 2023 | Review date: June 2025 |



**Nottingham and
Nottinghamshire**

Safety Pen Needles Nottinghamshire ICB Position Statement – July 2023

Position Statement

Safety pen needles and safety lancet devices should NOT be prescribed on FP10 for use by healthcare professionals and employees; it is the employer's responsibility to provide them.

- Safety needles currently costs Nottinghamshire ICB approximately £124,000 annually.
- All patients currently receiving safety needles on the NHS in the Nottinghamshire area will be reviewed and the NHS will only support continued prescribing in exceptional circumstances.

Background

Under [the HSE Regulations 2013](#) employers must substitute traditional, unprotected medical sharps with a 'safer sharp' where it is reasonably practicable to do so. **One of the requirements for employers** under these regulations is to 'Have effective arrangements for the safe use and disposal (including using 'safer sharps' where reasonably practicable, restricting the practice of recapping of needles and placing sharps bins close to the point of use)'. What this means in practice is that healthcare workers who are required to administer injectables (e.g. District Nurses, and nurses working in residential and nursing homes.) to patients especially outside the clinical setting with no direct access to sharps bins must use 'safer sharps'. Safer sharps are not required for use by patients who self-administer insulin or carers unless the patient has a known blood born virus.

Nottinghamshire ICB Recommendation

Safety pen needles and safety lancet devices **should NOT** be prescribed on FP10 for use by healthcare professionals and employees; it is the employer's responsibility to provide them.

Safety pen needles and safety lancet devices can be prescribed in the following exceptional circumstances:

- Patients whose insulin is administered by a non-professional healthcare worker, e.g. carer **AND** where the patient is known to have a blood born virus e.g seropositive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).
- Children injecting at school.
- Prisoners self-injecting.

Ensure patients are educated about the [safe disposal of needles](#) via a sharps bin. Sharpsguard yellow 1litre and Sharpsafe yellow 1 litre are suitable for insulin needles and lancets and are available on FP10. Needles are available in different sizes; the shortest appropriate needle should be used to prevent IM injection. Where a prescription is deemed necessary as per the exceptions above, a cost-effective brand should be chosen.

Cost Effective Safety Needles

| Safety Needles NOT ROUTINELY RECOMMENDED | Size | Cost (100) | How to use videos – Please note differences in injecting techniques. |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Neon Verifine Safety | 5mm/31 gauge | £14.89 | Neon Verifine |
| Glucorx Safety Pen Needles | 5mm/30 gauge | £12.95 | Glucorx Safety Needles |
| Microdot Max Safety Pen Needles | 5mm/30 gauge | £12.89 | Microdot Safety Needles |

References

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2. Directives. Implementing the Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU. Official Journal of the European Union. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2010/32/EU [10 May 2010]. Available from <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:134:0066:0072:EN:PDF>.
3. Drug Tariff. NHS Business Services Authority. June 2023 [cited 23/06/2023]. Available from <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff>
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5. Prescipp Bulletin 103: Insulin Needles: July 2015 (cited 23/06/2023) <https://www.prescipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-103-insulin-needles/>
6. Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013; Guidance for employers and employees. Published by the Health and Safety Executive <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis7.htm>

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