

Safety News

Summer 2009

■ Introduction

As you may be aware, following first stage consultation back in December 2006 the European Commission considered that the protection of workers against blood-borne infections resulting from needlestick injuries should be improved. The Commission felt that too many European health sector workers were exposed to needlestick injuries and considered that Member States must make an effort to apply national legislation in this area.

In June 2009 a landmark agreement was set in Brussels on the safer use of needles to prevent injury. An agreement has been made between the European Public Service Unions and health-care employers across Europe which is expected to become EU health and safety legislation before the end of 2009.

What this will mean is that Member State hospitals will have to carry out risk assessments on needlestick injuries and may have to introduce safer equipment including needleless IV connectors, self-resheathing needles and blunted surgical needles.

This will go a long way towards making the lives of UK health-care workers safer and we will obviously keep you updated in the next edition of Safety News.

As mentioned in the last edition of Safety News even without central legislative powers in place UK hospitals have been very active in protecting their staff from needlestick injuries by introducing safety IV cannulae. At B. Braun Medical we now know that at least 35% of all IV cannulae used in the UK are safety versions.

This edition of Safety News is again full of great articles and features; such as George Elliot Hospital deciding that both staff and patients can be protected by introducing a Safety IV cannulation pack. This not only

supports the reduction in needlestick injuries and hospital acquired infection but is also more convenient to staff and allows for a more productive ward.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Hospital as well as describing the exciting development of a full single occupancy room hospital site discuss the selection and implementation of a safety IV cannula. The supplies department write how honesty and a professional ethical approach were key factors in the selection criteria. It is so pleasing that UK hospitals continue to select organisations that still hold true to these values.

Newham University Hospital Trust describe the importance of cannulation training within their trust and you can read of the benefits of the London Vascular Access Network Structured Learning Programme for Venepuncture and Cannulation of which B. Braun are pleased to offer continued support.

In this edition of Safety News we have also decided to introduce you to some of the community and support work we are involved in such as Mary's Meals, The Yorkshire Air Ambulance and the sponsorship of NHS Regatta.

We hope you enjoy this edition of safety news and please do e-mail with any comments, thoughts or contributions you wish to make to future editions to sarah.richardson@bbraun.com.

Graeme Cameron
Business Manager - Devices
B. Braun Medical Ltd

Did you know?

- 80% of people infected with HEP C remain infected with risk of long term liver disease resulting in cirrhosis, liver failure, transplantation and even death (BMA -Bloodborne viruses- a guide for healthcare professionals).
- A needlestick injury sustained from an IV cannula is far more dangerous than a needlestick injury sustained from a syringe and needle as it has a much wider bore, carrying more blood, and therefore increasing the risk of contracting more blood borne viruses.
- The NHS Employers Blue Book on health, safety and welfare issues offers guidance about how to reduce needlestick injuries by training, risk assessment and the use of new technology. It highlights that safety mechanisms can prevent more than 80% of needlestick and sharps injuries.

Please Visit: www.saferneedles.org.uk

for further news and comments on protecting health-care workers from needlestick injuries

■ Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Safety News



In 2008 Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, began a process to introduce safety cannulae to reduce needlestick injuries.

One of the key criteria was to ensure that no cost pressures were incurred in introducing a safety cannula. Following evaluations and negotiations with B. Braun Medical the trust not only implemented a safety cannula but also made end user savings.

The trust is made up of three hospitals Maidstone, Pembury and Kent and Sussex with a total of 862 beds. In February this year the go-ahead was given for the development of a government approved PFI scheme to replace Pembury and Kent & Sussex Hospitals costing £226M and is due to open in 2010/2011. The development has 512 beds and is the first UK hospital with all single occupancy rooms with en-suite facilities. These rooms are designed to address key issues such as privacy, dignity and infection control. It incorporates some of the best design features from

hospitals around the world and the designers believe this will set a benchmark for future NHS hospitals. The new combined development will also provide an additional 100 beds to the trust.

Prior to the policy of adopting the B. Braun Vasofix® Safety Cannula in the new complex, an extensive evaluation of safety cannulae was carried out in all three sites of the trust. The evaluation areas chosen were Theatres, A & E, Maternity, MAU and all Oncology units. All cannulating staff were familiarised one week prior to the evaluation starting. The evaluation of each product was carried out for a two week period and evaluation forms were given to all participating members. Once the evaluation was complete, the Product Standardisation Group recommended that B. Braun Medical were to be awarded the contract. This group incorporates users such as anaesthetists who commented that after full experience of all three cannulae, the B. Braun Vasofix® Safety Cannula proved the easiest to use and proved most reliable, in addition to the quality of their product. It was clear to us as a group that B. Braun demonstrated exceptional user support throughout the process and they are also now supporting us with their RCN accredited cannulation training programme. Key factors in deciding to adopt B. Braun were their honesty and professional ethical approach.

Dalony Pinniger (Sales Specialist, B. Braun Medical) and her team have since completed a successful and highly organised implementation of Vasofix® Safety. Procurement will now look forward to seeing a reduced incidence of needlestick injury with the added benefit of a safety device at no extra cost. We look forward to working in partnership with B. Braun in the future.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Did you know? ■ B. Braun train more than 5000 nurses on their RCN Cannulation Training Programme each year

Did you know? ■ B. Braun Vasofix and Introcan Safety have been the selected cannula in 94% of UK Hospital evaluations.

■ A Structured Learning Programme for Venepuncture and Cannulation

The London Vascular Access Network have developed a structured learning programme that offers a standardised assessment for all health-care staff to learn venepuncture and/or cannulation. Nurses from four NHS trusts in London and south east, with a special interest and expertise in cannulation and venepuncture, devised the programme to reduce the need for repeated training and assessment when staff take up new posts within these trusts. The authors in their respective trusts have used the tool over a four year period. The tool has recently been reviewed by it's authors and is being disseminated to organisations across the United Kingdom (UK). These organisations will evaluate it with a long term objective to standardise the training and assessment of venepuncture and cannulation across the UK.

B. Braun Medical are pleased to offer their continued support to the London Vascular Access Network and roll out of their structured learning programme for venepuncture and cannulation to further demonstrate our commitment to education and training.

Authors:

- Mary Collins – Lecturer/ Practitioner, Imperial Collage Healthcare NHS Trust, St Mary's Hospital
- Sarah Phillips – (Organisational Consultant) Former Lead Nurse, Multi-Professional Practice Education, Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust, London
- Lisa Dougherty – Nurse Consultant IV Therapy, The Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Anne de Verteuil – Senior Clinical Skills Trainer, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
- Wendy Morris – Clinical Skills Trainer, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

■ Introducing a Needle Safe Cannula and Launching IV Cannula Packs into the George Eliot NHS Trust in Warwickshire



Like many other similar size trusts in England the George Eliot Hospital experienced an increase in the number of MRSA bacteraemia in 2008. Root cause analysis had demonstrated that the majority of patients developing a bacteraemia had a peripheral cannula inserted during their hospital stay.

Documentation was poor, making it impossible to determine the standard of insertion and line care given to the patients. The trust had made a decision to change to a needle safe cannula and so as to ensure an improvement in documentation, standards of insertion and after care they decided to write a business case to introduce Safety IV Cannula Packs. By introducing a pack which included the Safety Cannula, it was felt that

staff would adapt to the changes all at once and ensure a smoother transition.

The introduction of the Safety Cannula Packs included several weeks of training by B. Braun. The trust made a decision that this training was valuable and to continue with this high level of training for all staff who insert lines and perform phlebotomy on in-patients. Therefore, all nursing, Allied Health Professionals, medical staff including medical students, locums and junior doctors are now prevented from carrying out venepuncture and cannulation within the trust until they have been trained and observed by our education staff at induction or within the work place by designated assessors. There was some resistance at first to the use of a pack, but everything has settled down now and the staff find the Safety Cannula Pack invaluable as they do not have to search for each individual item of equipment.

A workshop is now run by the education staff at all medical staff inductions. Documentation is monitored by use of High Impact Intervention audits performed weekly and results fed back at a Back to Basics group lead by the Director of Nursing. All this hard work has resulted in zero bacteraemia between October 2008 and April 2009 within the trust.

Joanne Taylor - Infection Control Nurse, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
June Woodcock - Infection Control Nurse, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

■ Newham Training Support

Peripheral intravenous cannulation training at NUHT is very popular amongst our staff as way of extending their clinical skills. Our ability to continue to provide this training has been thanks to the support provided by B. Braun Medical staff.

They assist in the delivery of teaching and supervising practice in the classroom, providing educational resources for ward areas and giving advice to staff on issues that arise in practice. We can rely on all their educational resources and teaching to be up to date and promote best practice.

They are always ready to offer extra help and guidance where needed across the trust to various different departments. Overall at NUHT we feel very privileged to receive the support of B. Braun throughout our cannulation educational programme.

Sarah McLean
Professional Development Nurse
Newham University Hospital Trust

Michelle McLelland
Professional Development Nurse
Newham University Hospital Trust



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Did you know? ■ The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has reported that in the UK there are an estimated 100,000 needlesticks every year.

■ Yorkshire NHS teams make big splash at Regatta

Health-care workers in the UK made huge waves at the annual NHS Sailing Regatta with teams from hospital and primary care trusts taking to the seas.



The Regatta, held on the 25th and 26 April, is the largest single-class boat race in Europe, supported by B. Braun Medical Ltd, which attracted a record 62 boats crewed by NHS employees who competed at Port Solent.

Organiser of the event, Stephen Farey, said: "The NHS Regatta goes from strength to strength each year and 2009's was a phenomenally exciting event. The teams were made up of staff from all areas of the NHS from all over the UK, and the competition was fierce.

"Surgeons, anaesthetists, managers, nurses and auxiliary staff made up a record number of entrants and all worked together to get the most from their boats. Some highly experienced team members competed, but plenty of novices were also involved who got their first taste of racing at club level.

"Although the NHS Regatta is focused on the racing, it has become a fantastic event for spectators and those wanting to unwind in a relaxing atmosphere. Huge numbers of people turned up to enjoy the competition."

This year's event is the 19th NHS Regatta and ended in a prize-giving ceremony at Portsmouth Harbour Yacht Club where trophies were awarded by B. Braun Medical.

Hans Hux, Chief Executive Officer of B. Braun Medical, said: "B. Braun is now in its 8th year of supporting this great annual NHS event, which has become firmly fixed in the NHS sporting calendar."

■ South Yorkshire Air Ambulance

B. Braun is a key supporter of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, a high profile emergency service that covers Yorkshire and parts of the surrounding counties. The ambulance has flown literally hundreds of life saving missions and has provided emergency assistance to several major incidents. The Air Ambulance can often access areas that are difficult or impossible for road ambulances to reach quickly and smoothly, for example coastal, rural or mountainous areas.

The helicopters are fully equipped to frontline emergency road ambulance specification and can fly at speeds of 140 mph, providing the people of Yorkshire with the best possible pre-hospital patient care. The Air Ambulance can also deliver a fast inter-hospital transfer of seriously ill or injured patients and a high level of patient comfort, especially important to patients with head, neck, and spinal injuries.



The valuable service that is provided by the Yorkshire Air Ambulance does not come free. The overall annual cost is around £2m met by charitable donations.

B. Braun's support also

helps to keep this valuable service in place – not only on a financial basis but also providing support with office facilities, business development and marketing support.

This support has been recognised as being an important factor through the contribution of expertise in the acquisition of the charities second aircraft now based in South Yorkshire.

■ Mary's Meals

It is shocking that today there are an estimated 400 million chronically hungry children in the world with over 77 million primary school aged children not attending school.



A charity called Mary's Meals was set up in 1992 with the aim to help solve these problems by setting up school feeding projects in communities where poverty blocks children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals is a very very simple concept. It provides one good nourishing meal in a place of education every day for the world's poorest children. Over and over again it has

been proven that a basic education is the key to relieving the world's poorest communities out of poverty.

If you would like to support Mary's Meals please visit their website www.marysmeals.org

In 2009 B. Braun Medical are launching two initiatives to support Mary's Meals projects:

1. To raise the funds to build a B. Braun school shelter. The food has to be stored and cooked in a shelter attached to the school which is essential. The money will be raised through on-going employee fund raising events.
2. To participate in the Mary's Meals project called the 'Back Pack Project'. This project is aimed at getting UK children to donate one of their old ruck sacks or bags and fill it with old shorts, t-shirts and basic education material such as pens and crayons. The aim is to collect 1500 back packs.

Graeme Cameron, Business Manager for B. Braun Medical's Hospital Care Division said "Having taken part in fund raising for Mary's Meals in the past, I learnt about the fantastic work that the charity does and felt that extending the fund raising across the company would be a great way to raise further cash. B. Braun is thrilled to be showing their support for such a fantastic cause."