Northern Ireland NIAIC Safety Notice

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Action

Reference:	Issued:	Valid to:
NIN-2021-02	**21 Oct 2021**	**01May 2022**

Portex - clear cuffed nasal endotracheal tube - Model No. 100/150/070

Summary

We have been made aware of an incident were ICU staff have noticed that the Portex - clear cuffed nasal endotracheal tube (model No. 100/150/070 all sizes) are more prone to kinking during long-term invasive ventilation (i.e. intubation). The Portex model No. 100/150/070 was distributed as an alternative to the previously used Rusch (Teleflex) devices due to a shortage in supplies.

The intended use of the Portex clear-cuffed nasal endotracheal tube, model No. 100/150/XXX (where XXX defines the length of the tube), is for short-term usage. Protex do market a more appropriate device for long-term intubation, Model No. 100/199/XXX. We understand that the Portex Model No.100/199/070 should now be available from stock.

NB. There has been no defect noted with the Portex clear-cuffed nasal endotracheal tube, model No. 100/150/070 if used in in accordance with the manufacturer's intended use.

Action

1. If you have, patients on long-term intubation with a Portex model No. 100/150/070 in place you should increase vigilance to reduce the risk of tube kinking and consider replacing these tubes at the earliest safe time, with a tube designed for the correct purpose.

2. You should check current stocks of clear-cuffed nasal endotracheal tubes and clearly identify the different models and make staff aware of their intended usage.

3. When re-ordering stock ensure you should quote the correct model or clearly define the purpose of use.

Actions

Actions initiated:	22nd Oct 2021
Actions completed:	30th Nov 2021

Problem / background

Not applicable

Suggested onward Distribution

- ICU Staff, including housekeeping staff who replenish consumables
- All wards with the facilities to manage intubated patients
- Local supplies
- Governance & Risk Management

Enquires

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to using the reference NIN-2021-001:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre
Medical Device and Estates Safety Policy Branch
Safety Strategy Unit, CMO Group
Department of Health
Room D1
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 9052 3868
Email: niaic@health-ni.gov.uk
http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/niaic

Reporting adverse incidents in Northern Ireland
Please report directly to NIAIC using the forms on our website.