Medical Device Alert

Immediate action

Ref: MDA/2010/021 Issued: 10 March 2010 at 14:00

Device

Anaesthetic gas scavenging systems (AGSS).

All manufacturers.

Problem

Risk of serious harm to the patient from excessive pressure in anaesthetic breathing systems caused by blockage of AGSS hoses.

Action by

Anaesthetic staff.

CAS deadlines

Action underway: 24 March 2010
Action complete: 07 April 2010

Action

- Ensure all anaesthetic staff are aware of this problem.
- Have procedures in place to ensure that:
  - a means of over-pressure relief is provided at the entry to the AGSS transfer hose when it incorporates 30mm diameter connectors to attach to either the exhaust, or adjustable pressure limiting (APL) valves of anaesthetic breathing systems or ventilators
  - pre-use checks for the anaesthetic equipment are always followed, including the anaesthetic machine, ventilator, breathing systems and the AGSS, as recommended by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in their guidelines 'Checking Anaesthetic Equipment 3 (2004)' (www.aagbi.org).

These actions are endorsed by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI).

Link to Medical Device Alert

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON076104