

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2006/57

Issued: 22 September 2006



HEALTH ESTATES

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For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Handpieces used with oral / maxillofacial surgery drills.	▶ ①
Problem: Lack of appropriate maintenance leading to overheating and oral burns.	▶ ②
Action by: Maxillo-facial surgeons, cosmetic surgeons, dental surgeons, theatre managers.	▶ ③
Action: By users of surgical dental drills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always use an ISO standard bur, with diameter and length as specified in the user instructions. • Before using the handpiece, run it to check that it is running true (i.e. no noise, not loose, no damage, etc.) and to check for any abnormalities, including heating. By dental laboratory/operating theatre managers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the bearings at least annually. • Consider a service contract with the appropriate manufacturer, supplier or agent. • Follow the manufacturer's instructions on cleaning, lubrication and maintenance. Provide appropriate instructions and training to sterile services departments or third parties who carry out decontamination procedures.	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers General Dental Practitioners	▶ ⑤
Contacts Details of NIAIC contacts for technical aspects.	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None required.	▶ ⑦

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Handpieces used with oral / maxillofacial surgery drills.

2. PROBLEM:

Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in the number of reports of oral burns to patients from overheating drill handpieces during maxillofacial surgery. The reports have come from several sources and involve devices from various manufacturers. The majority of incidents involve the cone end of the handpiece heating up close to the bur holder. In most of the devices that were returned for analysis, the bearings in that location were shown to be in sub-standard condition. This was generally accompanied by a lack of appropriate maintenance. It should be kept in mind that the bearings used in oral / maxillofacial surgery handpieces tend to be smaller and more fragile than standard dental handpieces.

Reference is made to the importance of planned preventative maintenance in the NIAIC Device Bulletin DB2000/02(NI) 'Medical Devices and Equipment Management: Repair and Maintenance Provision', Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre, November 2000 (downloadable from the NIAIC website at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>).

3. ACTION BY:

Maxillo-facial surgeons, cosmetic surgeons, dental surgeons, theatre managers.

4. ACTION:

By users of surgical dental drills:

- Always use an ISO standard bur, with diameter and length as specified in the user instructions.
- Before using the handpiece, run it to check that it is running true (i.e. no noise, not loose, no damage, etc.) and to check for any abnormalities, including heating.

By dental laboratory/operating theatre managers:

- Check the bearings at least annually.
- Consider a service contract with the appropriate manufacturer, supplier or agent.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on cleaning, lubrication and maintenance.

Provide appropriate instructions and training to sterile services departments or third parties who carry out decontamination procedures.

5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include distribution to:

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Clinical Governance Leads
- Device Managers
- Medical Directors
- Nurse Directors
- Cosmetic Surgeons
- Dental Departments
- Dental Nurses
- Dental Surgeons
- Dental Surgery Units
- Maxillofacial Surgeons
- Oral Surgery Departments
- Outpatient Theatre Managers
- Outpatient Theatre Nurses
- Sterile Service Departments
- Supplies Managers
- Theatres
- Directors of Public Health
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics through HSS Board R&I Units
- Operating Theatre Staff

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2006/57 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US

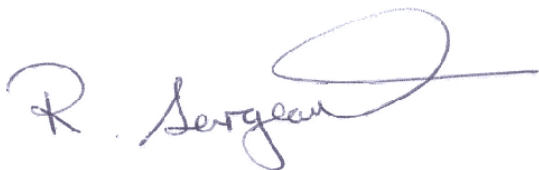
Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None required.



Robert Sergeant
NIAIC Operational Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2006/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

