



DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE



FOR ACTION BY:
Chief Executive of each HSS Trust
General Manager/Chief Executive of each HSS Board
General Manager/Chief Executive of each Agency
General Practitioners

Stoney Road Dundonald
Belfast
Northern Ireland BT16 1US

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ADVICE NOTICE (NI) 99/04

Date: 22 October 1999

Product	:	SINGLE PATIENT USE OF CONTACT LENSES: IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE
Manufacturer/ Supplier	:	VARIOUS
Issue	:	IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON THE USE OF CONTACT LENSES FROM THE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC).
Action	:	DO NOT USE CONTACT LENSES, INCLUDING TRIAL CONTACT LENS FITTING SETS (DIAGNOSTIC LENS FITTING SETS), ON MORE THAN ONE PATIENT

ADVICE NOTICE

1. ATTENTION CHIEF EXECUTIVES/GENERAL MANAGERS

This Advice Notice should be brought to the immediate attention of all who need to know, or be aware of it including those listed below, in accordance with local procedures, and immediate action should be taken as detailed overleaf:

- ◆ Optometrists
- ◆ Ophthalmologists
- ◆ Dispensing Opticians
- ◆ All Medical and Nursing Staff in Hospitals and in the Community
- ◆ GPs
- ◆ Supplies Departments
- ◆ Risk Managers
- ◆ Safety Liaison Officers

Boards/Trusts should ensure that if appropriate, this information is passed to **ALL** persons having the responsibility for premises registered under "THE REGISTERED HOMES (NI) ORDER 1992".



An Executive Agency of the Department of Health
and Social Services

2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

Do not use contact lenses including trial contact lens fitting sets (diagnostic lens fitting sets), on more than one patient.

3. BACKGROUND

In June 1999, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) considered the possible risk of transmission of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) through the use of trial contact lenses on more than one patient. As a result of SEAC's advice, the Department issued Advice Notice (NI) 99/02 *Use of trial contact lenses on multiple patients*.

The Department subsequently asked SEAC to consider the possible risks posed by the re-use of special complex diagnostic lenses.

SEAC considered that any risk of transmission remained theoretical, confirmed its earlier advice, and recommended that all trial and diagnostic lens fitting sets should be restricted to single patient use.

The Department in discussion with manufacturers of contact lenses regarding the availability of suitable lenses to enable this recommendation to be implemented as soon as possible.

4. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries *in writing* regarding this notice should be addressed as follows:

NORTHERN IRELAND DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE (NIDIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy
Stoney Road
Dundonald
BELFAST BT16 1US *marked for the attention of Mr Dominic Cafolla*

Yours faithfully

Dominic Cafolla
Deputising Defect Centre Manager

HOW TO REPORT DEFECTS

Professional Estate Letter PEL(93)36 issued by Estate Services Directorate, on 27th July 1994 advises Health and Social Services Boards, HSS Trusts and agencies how to notify HPSS about accidents with and defects in medicinal products, buildings and plant, medical devices and other medical and non medical equipment and supplies.