



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
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Northern Ireland BT16 1US

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ADVICE NOTICE (NI) 99/05

Date: 22 October 1999

Product	:	SINGLE PATIENT USE OF OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL DEVICES: IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE
Manufacturer/ Supplier	:	VARIOUS
Issue	:	IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVICE ON THE USE OF OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL DEVICES THAT TOUCH THE SURFACE OF THE EYE FROM THE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC).
Action:	:	COMPONENTS OF OPHTHALMIC DEVICES THAT TOUCH THE SURFACE OF THE EYE SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SINGLE PATIENT USE WHEREVER PRACTICABLE AND WHERE THIS DOES NOT COMPROMISE CLINICAL OUTCOME

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".



HEALTH ESTATES
ESTATE POLICY

2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

Components of ophthalmic devices that touch the surface of the eye should be restricted to single patient use wherever practicable and where this does not compromise clinical outcome.

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 ophthalmic medical devices that touched the surface of the eye.

Scientific data relevant to the issue are limited. Any potential risk is probably very low. The Committee considered that the Department should recommend that wherever practicable and where this does not compromise clinical outcome, components of devices that touch the surface of the eye, eg tonometer heads, should be restricted to single patient use.

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.