

# ONE LINERS

**Sweet Medicine** MHRA receives a significant number of reports relating to problems associated with devices used in the diagnosis and management of diabetes; some result in significant health risks. This issue of One Liners is concerned entirely with devices used by people with diabetes and highlights some of the main problems and how these can be addressed.

## Pedi-Cure

Wheelchair users who have diabetes are vulnerable to injuries or pressure ulcers of the feet.

Risks to the feet should always be checked, especially if the patient cannot wear normal footwear. The NHS trust supplying the wheelchair should be contacted for appropriate foot support or padding.

## Jammin'

MHRA has received a significant number of reports concerning difficulties in the operation and use of the Aventis Optipen Pro insulin pen. These include plunger jams, dose setting and injection difficulties, and confusion about the dose delivered.

Healthcare professionals should take these issues into account when prescribing a pen. Patients using the Optipen Pro should be thoroughly trained in the use of the device and the contents of the manufacturer's instructions for use. See MDA/2004/002.

## Tab-U-Late

The HumaPen Ergo insulin pen injection system suffered a high rate of engagement tab failure with the blue cartridge holder. This resulted in a design change to a clear cartridge holder with strengthened engagement tabs. A replacement programme was instituted but the MHRA still receives reports of broken engagement tabs on blue holders.

Healthcare professionals should ensure that all HumaPen Ergo users have checked the cartridge holders in their pens, and any blue holders should be replaced with a clear holder.

## Meter-ology?

We continue to receive reports about blood glucose meters that are linked to inappropriate use and lack of training.

Always read the manufacturer's instructions for use. Ensure that only those whose training and competence have been established use these devices. For further guidance please see Device Bulletin DB 2002(03) 'Management and Use of IVD Point of Care Test Devices'.

## Plasma Screen

There are many different blood glucose meters available that use test strips which are either whole blood or plasma calibrated. Using plasma calibrated strips in a meter intended for whole blood calibrated strips can give results approximately 12% too high.

Make sure that you know which type of meter is in use and employ the correct type of test strip. See MDA/2002/043.

## Wrong Number

MHRA is aware of several incidents, including one fatality, where systemic patient treatments containing maltose (such as certain peritoneal dialysis fluids and intravenous infusions) have caused overestimation of blood glucose by particular meters. Food, drinks and oral drugs containing maltose do not cause this problem.

Always read the manufacturer's instructions for use of ALL blood glucose measuring devices to ensure that you are familiar with their limitations. Refer to MDA/2003/011 for further information.