

Chief Executive/General Manager
Health and Social Services Boards
Chief Executive
Health and Social Services Trusts
General Manager
Central Services Agency
Chief Executive
Regional Medical Physics Agency
Chief Executive
Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service
General Medical Practitioners
General Dental Practitioners
Optometrists
Community Pharmacists

Our Ref: PEL(02) 01

Date: 7 January 2002

Dear Sir/Madam

NORTHERN IRELAND ADVERSE INCIDENT CENTRE (NIAIC) INTERNET SITE

Distribution (Trusts & Boards):

- Staff with responsibility for setting organisational policy for medical and non-medical equipment management.
- Liaison Officers for onward distribution in accordance with local procedures.
- Risk Managers, Health & Safety Managers/Co-coordinators.
- Medical Directors for onward distribution to Medical Staff.
- Nurse Directors for onward distribution to Nursing Staff.
- Estates Managers.
- Trust Pharmacy Managers
- R&I Units (for onward distribution to Residential & Nursing Homes)

Action:

TO NOTE:

NIAIC warning notices, Device Bulletins and Guidance Booklets are now available on-line at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic.

Background:

The key aim of the Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC), is to record and investigate reported adverse incidents involving medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and building items used in Health and Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland and to issue warning notices and guidance to help prevent recurrence and avert patient, staff, client or user injury.

NIAIC has direct links with the Medical Device Agency (MDA) who co-ordinate across the adverse incident centres in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for issues concerning medical device safety. NIAIC also has links with NHS Estates and other bodies for safety issues concerning non-medical equipment, plant and building items.

Changes in health care technology and clinical practice mean that increasingly complex medical devices are being used in primary care. In addition, individuals are increasingly buying their own medical devices privately. The new NIAIC web site is an important information resource for all users of medical devices, including all health and social care professionals in Primary and Secondary Care.

Adverse Incident reporting forms are available for downloading from the website and we will shortly have the facility for on-line incident reporting.

The provision of the website is an enhancement of our existing distribution arrangements for warning notices and other NIAIC publications. These existing arrangements remain unchanged, although we will be reviewing the publication of Device Bulletins and Guidance Booklets to ensure that we can make best use of the Internet.

Should you require any further information concerning this letter, please contact;

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Yours faithfully

S Blayney
Director