Dear Colleague,

Supply route for Insulin Safety Needles

Insulin safety needles may be used when healthcare workers are administering insulin to patients who are unable to self-administer. They are used to prevent needle stick injuries and to ensure the protection of healthcare workers.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that Trust healthcare workers and GPs are aware of the correct mechanism for ordering supplies of these needles.

There has recently been a regional procurement exercise within the Trusts and the safety needle of choice is BD Autoshield®.

As these safety needles are for the protection of Trust staff they should, therefore, be ordered via Trust stock by eProcurement and NOT ordered via a patient’s HS21 prescription.

Action for GP Practices:

Prescriptions for safety needles (brands include BD Autoshield®, MyLife Clickfine Autoprotect® and Novofine Autocover®) should NOT be issued on a HS21 for individual patients, except in such circumstances where a patient’s insulin is being administered by a non-health care worker e.g. a designated carer or relative. GP Practices should identify patients who are currently being prescribed safety needles and if their insulin is being administered by a district nurse, they should contact the relevant nurse and advise of the correct arrangements for ordering safety needles. When the new supply arrangement is in place, the GP practice should stop issuing further prescriptions for safety needles.
Action for Trust staff:

Please ensure that when safety needles are required, for the administration of insulin to a patient, suitable quantities are ordered via Trust stock supplies. The eProcurement code for ordering is FNJ000001.

If you have any queries on this letter, please contact HSCB Pharmacy Adviser, Breege Brogan (breege.brogan@hscni.net)

Yours sincerely,

Joe Brogan
Asst Director Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

Cc Regional Diabetes Network