



# Medical Device Alert

MDA/2016/023

Issued: 22 December 2016 at 11:00

Alaris<sup>®</sup> syringe pumps (all models) – risk of uncontrolled bolus of medicine with non-recommended syringes

## Summary

Alaris syringe pumps are manufactured by CareFusion – using non-recommended syringes in Alaris syringe pumps that have a broken spring in the plunger assembly may cause unintended bolus of medication.

## Action

- If the pump keeps showing 'check syringe' alarms, contact CareFusion to discuss how to check the springs housed in the plunger holder.
- Use only the recommended syringes listed in the instructions for use for these pumps.
- Ensure all syringe pumps are regularly maintained and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

### Action by

All staff who use these devices

### Deadlines for actions

Actions underway: 10 January 2017

Actions complete: 07 February 2017

## Problem / background

This problem comes about through a combination of using non-recommended syringes with a pump that has a broken spring in the syringe driver plunger housing.

To date CareFusion has not identified an increased risk of this problem when recommended syringes are used.

## Manufacturer contacts

CareFusion

Tel: 0800 917 8776

Email: [UK-customer-service@carefusion.com](mailto:UK-customer-service@carefusion.com)

## Distribution

If you are responsible for cascading these alerts in your organisation, these are our suggested distribution lists.

### Trusts (NHS boards in Scotland)

CAS and SABS (NI) liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- A&E departments
- Adult intensive care units
- All wards
- Anaesthetists
- Biomedical engineering staff
- Clinical governance leads
- Day surgery units
- EBME departments
- Equipment stores
- IV nurse specialists
- Medical directors
- Neonatology departments
- Nursing executive directors
- Paediatric intensive care units
- Paediatric wards
- Paediatricians
- Risk managers
- Special care baby units
- Supplies managers
- Theatres

### Independent distribution

#### Establishments registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) (England only)

- Care homes providing nursing care (adults)
- Clinics
- Hospices
- Hospitals in the independent sector
- Independent treatment centres

Please note: CQC and OFSTED do not distribute these alerts. Independent healthcare providers and social care providers can sign up to receive MDAs directly from the Department of Health's Central Alerting System (CAS) by sending an email to: [safetyalerts@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:safetyalerts@dh.gsi.gov.uk) and requesting this facility.

## Enquiries

### England

Send enquiries about this notice to MHRA, quoting reference number **MDA/2016/023** or **2016/010/017/401/005**.

### Technical aspects

Roopa Prabhakar or Jenifer Hannon, MHRA

Tel: 020 3080 7293 / 7153

Email: [roopa.prabhakar@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:roopa.prabhakar@mhra.gsi.gov.uk) or [jenifer.hannon@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jenifer.hannon@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)

### Clinical aspects

Mark Grumbridge, MHRA

Tel: 020 3080 7128

Email: [mark.grumbridge@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mark.grumbridge@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)

### Reporting adverse incidents in England

Through Yellow Card <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

### Northern Ireland

Alerts in Northern Ireland are distributed via the [NI SABS system](#).

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre

CMO Group,

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Tel: 028 9052 3868

Email: [niaic@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:niaic@health-ni.gov.uk)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/niaic>

### Reporting adverse incidents in Northern Ireland

Please report directly to NIAIC using the [forms on our website](#).

### Scotland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Scotland should be addressed to:

Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre

Health Facilities Scotland

NHS National Services Scotland

Tel: 0131 275 7575

Fax: 0131 314 0722

Email: [nss.irc@nhs.net](mailto:nss.irc@nhs.net)

### Reporting adverse incidents in Scotland

NHS Boards and Local Authorities in Scotland – [report to Health Facilities Scotland](#).

Contractors such as private hospitals carrying out NHS work and private care homes that accept social work funded clients – [report to Health Facilities Scotland](#).

Private facilities providing care to private clients report to the [Care Inspectorate](#) and [MHRA](#).

**Wales**

Enquiries in Wales should be addressed to:

Healthcare Quality Division

Welsh Government

Tel: 02920 823 624 / 02920 825 510

Email: [Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

**Reporting adverse incidents in Wales**

Report to MHRA through Yellow Card <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> and follow specific advice for reporting in Wales in [MDA/2004/054 \(Wales\)](#).

MHRA is a centre of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health  
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