



Update: needles and syringes procured for the COVID-19 vaccination programme

Summary

- The syringes and needles supplied are dose-sparing/low dead space syringes and needles. Using dose sparing needles ensures there are potential extra doses of the vaccine, when full doses can be drawn up to minimise wastage.
- This enables the NHS to vaccinate more vulnerable individuals within cohorts 1-4 more rapidly.
- The needles and syringes procured were sourced based on this key requirement.
- A market analysis conducted at the time of procurement was not able to identify any candidate dose-sparing/low dead space (a key requirement for a pandemic needle and syringe) combined needles and syringes with a safety needle.
- Therefore, the combined needles and syringes that have been sourced to date for use within the COVID-19 vaccination programme do not contain a safety feature. This approach has been approved by the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- In addition, PHE has been in contact with the Health and Safety Executive and is satisfied that they are content with the above approach.

Action

All staff involved in the operational management of COVID-19 vaccination clinics must:

- ensure that all centres are using the currently procured stocks of needles and syringes.
- not order additional needles or syringes. There is not sufficient stock within the NHS supply chain to support additional local ordering of other needles and syringes either with or without safety features.
- ensure that dose sparing syringes and needles are used to reduce vaccine wastage (unless different needles are required to meet specific clinical needs of an individual, eg different needle gauge and length for obese individuals).
- ensure that safe working practices are in place for working with and disposal of sharp devices

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