



Alert Title: **INTERNAL ALERT:**

IA247 Chlorhexidine in Medical Devices

Alert Description:

Chlorhexidine is used as an anti-infective coating on many Medical Devices, e.g. Central Venous Cannulae and Urinary Catheters. Chlorhexidine is a significant cause of life-threatening allergic reactions*.

There have been 6 confirmed cases of perioperative anaphylaxis to chlorhexidine in NHS Lothian since 2014, most of these cases involved coated devices and multiple exposures even after anaphylaxis had been diagnosed. Device labelling may not always make the presence of Chlorhexidine obvious. Users should check devices in their area for Chlorhexidine, be aware of and stock alternatives and ensure that they can manage anaphylaxis.

Alternatives to coated devices should be used in patients with known history of chlorhexidine allergy. Potential Chlorhexidine allergy should be considered in patients with a history of allergy/skin sensitivity following previous medical or dental procedures (inc peripheral cannulation or venesection) or to antiseptic creams, body washes or mouth washes. In the event of an acute anaphylactic reaction occurring within 1 hour of insertion of a coated invasive device, this device should be removed as soon as possible and replaced with a suitable alternative.

* Chlorhexidine caused 9% of Life-Threatening Allergic Reactions in the 6th National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (www.nationalauditprojects.org.uk/NAP6Home).

<https://www.resus.org.uk/anaphylaxis/emergency-treatment-of-anaphylactic-reactions/>

Source: NHSL

Type of Alert: INTERNAL ALERT

Issued: (Date) 26/09/2019

Received by Safety Alerts: 26/09/2019

Risk assessed to NHS Lothian as: **MEDIUM**

Consequences / impact: **MAJOR**

Occurrence: **UNLIKELY**

View from Procurement / Supply Chain

N/A

Product known to be used at the following locations:

Critical Care

Theatres

Interventional Radiology

Wards

Accident and Emergency

All Health and Social Care Services may have products which contain Chlorhexidine

Action taken by NHS Lothian Supply Chain

(Only for goods purchased through National Distribution Centre (NDC).

N/A

Other investigations / actions carried out

Actions: Issued By Clinical Alerts Coordinator: Date: 26/09/2019

ACTION ISSUED TO:	ACTION	DEADLINE
All Services	Please read and disseminate this safety alert action notice to all staff that need to be aware. Follow guidance in Alert Description above. Refer to Fig 1. Example of package with allergy	Confirmation to safety alert by 11/09/2019

	<p>information.</p> <p>Report any adverse events on DATIX.</p> <p>Directors and General Managers Office to report actions completed by email to: safety.alert@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk</p>	
--	---	--

Please contact the Alerts Coordinator if:

- You think you should not have been allocated an action in relation to this alert.
- You think the timescales allocated are not appropriate.
- You suspect we may have omitted a service area that SHOULD have received an action relating to this alert.

Thank you.

Contact us: safety.alert@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk or Telephone: 0131 537 (8)8565.

Example: Packaging of a “Quad Lumen Central Venous Catheterization Set with Blue FlexTip® ARROWg+ard Blue® Catheter” Ref CV-22854

Fig 1. Package with Allergy information highlighted.

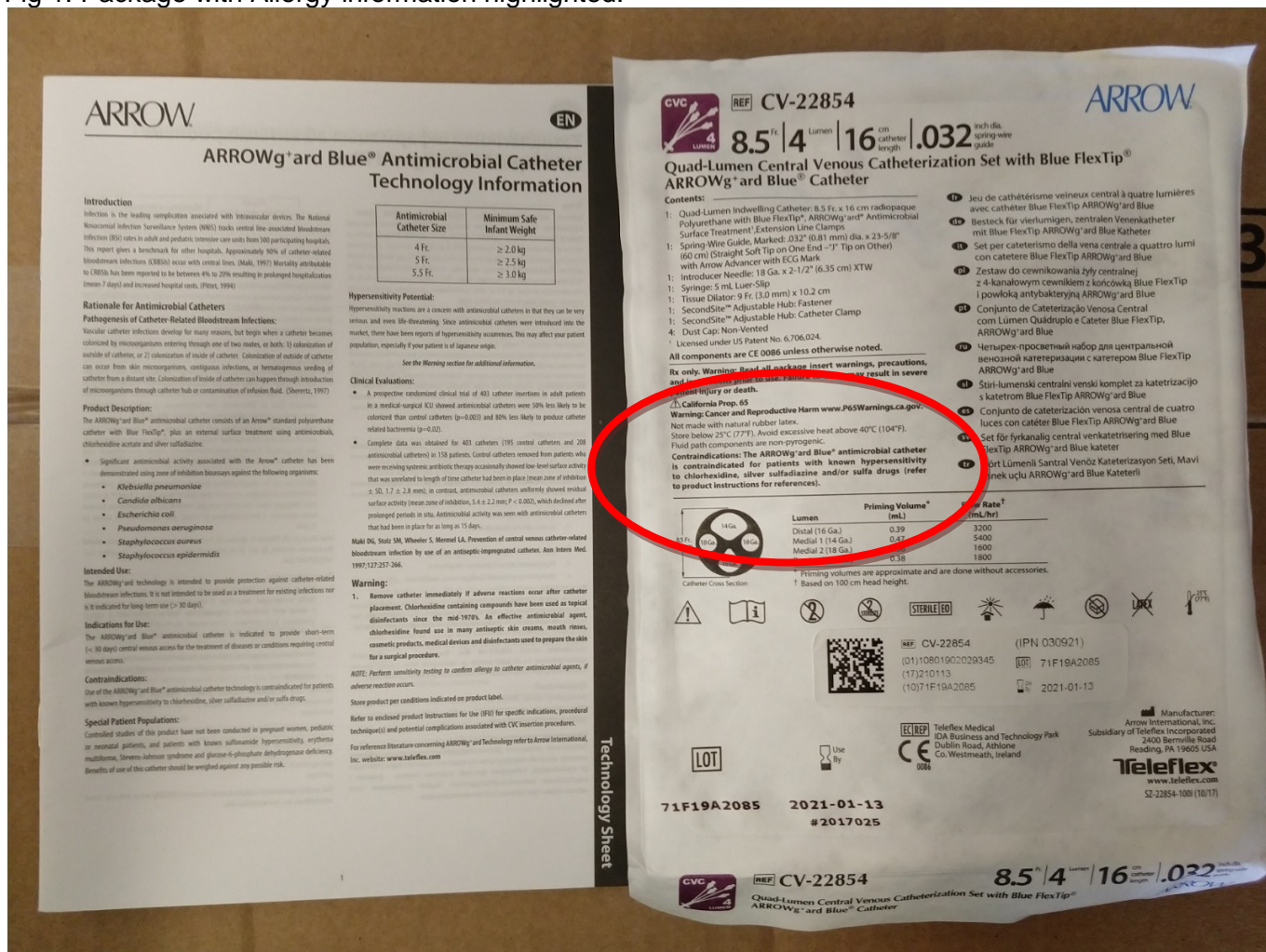


Fig 2. Close up view of allergy information.

