

MARKETPLACE

New law, new practice!

Dr Torjus Baalack explains
what the new sharps legislation
means for him

HSE (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 will be implemented in law this year, and will include those parts of Directive 2010/32/EU that are not specified in existing health and safety law. The expected date for these regulations to come into force is 11 May 2013¹, which, in essence, will mean we will all have to modify our sharps procedures.

It is not surprising when you learn that this type of injury happens approximately 100,000 times per year in the UK (and 1,000,000 in the EU)². Moreover, in the UK, an expert panel concluded that 56% of all percutaneous injuries and 80% of venepuncture and injection injuries could probably or definitely have been prevented through the use of safety devices³.

It's a good thing

One of my friends told me these figures: the risk of infection, following a percutaneous injury, has been estimated at 1 in 3 for HBV, 1 in 30 for HCV, and 1 in 300 for HIV⁴. And we are all at risk. That is why I believe the law implementation is a really good thing for all dental staff – don't think that this issue does not affect you. A mere clumsy gesture is enough to inflict yourself, or a member of your team, with months of uncertainty and anxiety, while awaiting a series of test results – the cost of which is your responsibility, as their employer; this can be up to £15,000. I found, by checking official websites, that the reason these test costs are so high is largely due to the incubation time of HIV, Hep B and C.

The benefits of Insafe

- You can keep your usual needles
- It fits all types of syringe
- A simple twist action easily locks the sleeve into place
- The needle will not be exposed once the sleeve is locked
- Used needles can be expelled one handed
- The cost per injection is less than 6p

Ingenious

All of these elements made me think about a new system I could use to work in safer conditions. I was particularly concerned for my nurse, because she is the most exposed one in my staff to a needlestick injury. I want members of my staff to work in a safe and risk-free environment. I have tried the Insafe Dental Syringe from Panadent and I find it to be a really ingenious system. On one hand, I can keep my usual needles. It can fit every kind of syringe, so no need to use a particular type. On the other hand, it is easy to lock the sleeve covering the needle into place by a simple twist action. At any moment, the needle won't be exposed once it is locked. Thanks to a practical box that can hold up to 150 needles, I can expel the used needles one handed.

The last argument I have is the price: after the initial investment, it costs me less than 6p per injection.

I have to say I have got used to the Insafe very quickly,



Torjus's best advice...

Update your device to the practical Insafe Syringe System. Do not wait for the law to be implemented to get a safer work environment. Health is priceless.

even though I found it slightly bigger in my hand for the first time.

I feel much more reassured since I have acquired this system, and passing the syringe to my nurse is not a worry any more. **ID**

References

1. HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd244.htm>
2. 2010 Biomedicine International report : Needlestick Injuries: Incidence and Cost in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, and Spain and European Parliament: Preventing needle-stick injuries in

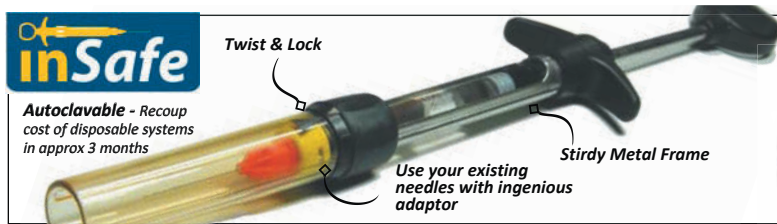
the health sector, 11th February 2010.

3. Cullen BL et al. Potential for reported needlestick injury prevention among healthcare workers through safety device usage and improvement of guideline adherence: expert panel assessment. *J Hosp Infect* 2006; 63:445-51.

4. Health Protection Agency, Eye of the Needle, 2012



Dr Torjus Baalack qualified in 2003 from Cork University, Ireland, and completed a three-year diploma in dental implantology in UCLAN in 2009. Further implant training was undertaken in Sweden at the prestigious Karolinska Institute in Stockholm as well as an oral surgery placement in The Molnsdahls Clinic in Gothenburg, Sweden. He is a member of the Association of Dental Implants. He has a special interest in cosmetic dentistry, especially same-day ceramics, full mouth rehabilitation and dental implants.



Avoid Needle Stick Injury the Safe and Simple Way



Winner of the Best New Product Award 2009, InSafe provides comprehensive protection from beginning to end of procedure. An ingenious disposal container provides safe one handed operation too.

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