

Category Update - Blood Collection July 2022

Current ICNs

ICN 1324 - Supply Issues Multiple Suppliers Blood Collection Multiple Products
ICN 1201 - Blood Gas Syringes
ICN 1718 - Blood Collection Winged Sets

The weekly supply issues update has been reinstated and will now be sent to customers each week containing links to updated ICNs.

The latest updates to all ICNs are available on the Contract Information Page.
<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/blood-collection>

Background

In the summer of 2021, we saw a global shortage of Blood Collection Bottles from Becton Dickinson. This resulted in a significant impact to the NHS and a request to reduce certain types of blood collection in several areas across the NHS. This situation is now largely rectified, and the NHS is mostly conducting blood collection on patients as normal, since Autumn 2021.

Why is the supply disruption continuing?

Since then, issues have arisen globally with freight, delays through outbreaks of COVID-19 and more recently the war in Ukraine. This has resulted in new supply issues of the needle element within the Blood Collection framework.

Since the spring of 2022 we have seen specific issues with the supply across Becton Dickinson and Greiner, who's products are largely interchangeable. With the greatest impact on Winged (Butterfly) sets from both suppliers, these products account for circa 45% of needle purchases (55% on straight).

When is the supply disruption likely to be resolved?

This shortage is likely to continue until the end of 2022, during which time the stock and service will continue to improve across both suppliers, before finally going back to normal service.

Action Taken

Through working with the suppliers and across the teams with NHS Supply Chain / DHSC / NHSE we have established a plan that requires some practice change to move to a straight needle from a winged device where practically feasible. This will prolong the stocks of winged devices whilst enabling the NHS to continue to function.

Demand Management

The current stock position on winged sets can be seen below and shows why we are managing the stocks of these product types. NHS Supply Chain holds eight weeks' worth of stock for critical products.

We continue to work closely with the suppliers to manage inbound and forecasts to enable us to achieve our target of rectifying this by the end of 2022.

Refresher on how Demand Management Works

- Protect – dynamic threshold is applied based on national stock, inbound deliveries, and national demand. This is used where view of forward deliveries is not clear
- Control – due to a severity of the supply disruption, the product must be suspended and allocated via webpage based on clinical need.

Demand management is reviewed regularly. For full details on supply chain resilience please refer to

<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/resilience>

Customers are encouraged to manage demand at trust level. If large orders are put through at individual req points, this results in the trust hitting their threshold. Therefore to ensure volumes allocated are based on BAU usage patterns, orders need to be spread equally across the trust.

Blood Collection Current Position

The product listing is available as a download on the Contract Information Page, it shows which products are currently protected and which are under control.

This changes daily, therefore customers are advised to review the catalogue for the live status of availability.

<https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/blood-collection>

There are currently no significant issues across Blood Bottles, therefore there is no reason to cancel or stop blood collection on patients due to the current situation.