

Innovation Brief

Skin Cleansing Disinfection and Hygiene - Steriwave Nasal Photo Disinfection

Summary

Disruptive Innovation

This briefing introduces a disruptive innovation newly available via NHS Supply Chain: The Steriwave Nasal Photo Disinfection. Reviewed by clinical specialists and supported by key stakeholders, this device offers a novel approach to managing pre-operative nasal decolonisation.

Introduction

This document is intended to inform clinical stakeholders and procurement teams about innovative products that have undergone a clinical review and are now accessible through NHS Supply Chain.

Products featured in this brief are classified as **disruptive innovations**:

- A disruptive innovation is novel.
- It should offer improvements compared to the existing provision of care.
- The proposed format should not exist elsewhere (either within or beyond the health and care sector).

Note: While robust evidence or validated savings may not yet be available, early data and clinical insights support the potential for patient and system-level improvements.

Departments / stakeholders for engagement

- NHS - procurement teams
- NHS - surgical teams
- NHS - head and neck services
- NHS - infection prevention and control leads
- NHS - medicines management teams

Opportunity

The Steriwave Nasal Photo Disinfection presents an opportunity to reduce surgical site infections (SSI) by:

- Improving nasal decolonisation compliance as there is no requirement for patients to self-medicate topical antibiotics.
- Reducing potential for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) with overuse or incorrect use of topical antibiotics.
- Providing a method for nasal decontamination in emergency and trauma surgery.

Product Overview

Steriwave is a non-invasive and painless light-activated antimicrobial therapy that destroys harmful pathogens in the nose - a major source of infection - in 5 minutes.

The treatment involves applying the proprietary Steriwave photosensitive agent (blue dye) to each nostril followed by illumination with a specific wavelength of red light. Steriwave is immediately effective against bacteria, viruses, and fungi and does not contribute to antimicrobial resistance, offering a powerful tool in the fight against healthcare-associated infections.

<https://www.molnlycke.com/en-gb/products/antiseptics/steriwave>

Clinical relevance

- Reductions in surgical site infections.
- Supports antimicrobial resistance targets through reduction in antibiotic use.

Additional benefits

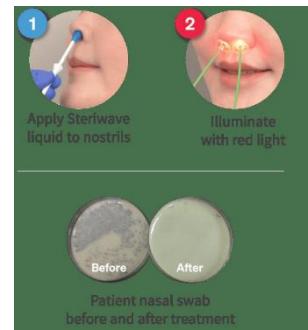
- Improved patient safety and experience.
- Reduced bed stays.
- Cost and time savings.

Pathway change

- Surgical pathway and check list.

Caution

- **Decolonisation body washes / wipes will still be required.**



Supply details

NPC - FBB85088	MPC - SW4300	Description - Roll Stand	Route - eDirect
Unit of Issue - Each			
NPC - FBB85089	MPC - SW4000	Description - Light Source	Route - eDirect
Unit of Issue - Each			
NPC - DEC85024	MPC - SW3100	Description - Applicator Swab	Route - eDirect
Unit of Issue - Case of 208			
NPC - DEC85025	MPC - SW3200	Description - Nasal Light Illuminator	Route - eDirect
Unit of Issue - Case of 50			
Supplier - Molnlycke Health Care Ltd	Brand - Steriwave		
Small Capital Equipment - Class 11a Medical Device	Consumable Products are single use		

Supporting evidence / notes

- Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust shortlisted in 2025 for HSJ Award for reducing SSIs.
- Bryce et al - Average of 42% reduction in SSI rate across major surgeries. Historical control, 3068 major surgery patients.
- Moskven et al - 67% reduction in SSI rate, ~\$2.5 million annual cost savings. Prospective 14-year, 13,000+ spine surgery patient study.
- Cost calculator available from the supplier.
- Supplier support with equipment costs for early adopters.

Contact Details

Sue Green - Clinical Specialist Infection Prevention and Control
sue.green@supplychain.nhs.uk

Care Pathway Team - first point of contact cpt.vbhenquiries@supplychain.nhs.uk

Sarah Spence - Category Manager, Skin Cleansing and Disinfectant
sarah.spence@supplychain.nhs.uk

Abbey Gibson - Category Buyer, Skin Cleansing and Disinfectant
Abbeygibson@supplychain.nhs.uk