

Supply Disruption to GBUK Suction Catheters

To: MDSOs and CPSNs for cascade to Community Trust and Procurement Teams

Information for: Community Trusts and Procurement Teams

Action required

Community teams:

- Those with an NHS Supply Chain account can order through the catalogue as normal.
- If you do not have an NHS Supply Chain account you can create one [here](#).
- Contact your local NHS Supply Chain Customer Relationship Manager. Contact details can be found [here](#).
- If the above actions are not feasible, please contact your local NHS Procurement team for support on ordering.

Local NHS Procurement teams:

- Discuss ordering capability with your local community trusts.
- Note, community organisations may have weekly ordering requirements. The NHS Supply Chain ordering requires daily ordering thresholds. Please adjust accordingly.
- Include additional volumes into your daily ordering to support the community teams.
- Agree delivery routes to community users.

Background:

- GBUK have experienced challenges obtaining raw materials (DHEP-free PVC), temporarily halting their manufacturing process. This will impact supply until July 2023, at the earliest.
- Other suppliers do not hold the volume of stock level required to meet the needs of the NHS and in response, NHS Supply Chain is working with suppliers to increase volumes to meet demand.
- There are 13 open suction catheters impacted by this disruption.

NHS Supply Chain response:

- NHS Supply Chain now have suction catheters from other suppliers in stock.
- To ensure continued supply and to prevent stock-out, demand management has been applied to these stocked items.
- There are limits to the daily threshold of orders that can be placed for stocked items.
- Forecast shows coverage across key sizes in the short and medium term, however, trusts will need to use the products from alternative suppliers and may need to make some minor adaptations.

- There continues to be a selection of non-stock suction catheters available on the NHS Supply Chain catalogue that customers can order.

Alternative suppliers moved into stock:

- GenX Medicare, Westbourne Medical, Pennine Healthcare, Richardson's Healthcare. Some GBUK products remain available to order.
- The attached product matrix shows products available through the NHS Supply Chain route.
- All stocked alternative products meet the clinical product specification.
- To ensure equitable supply and access to stock, trusts are encouraged to only order the volumes required to ensure demand continues to be met.

Ordering actions:

- For regular updates on the status of the recovery, see [ICN 2081](#) available via the NHS Supply Chain website.
- Ordering escalations:
 - If trusts are ordering through the NHS Supply Chain catalogue and are not receiving the required volumes, please follow the escalation process.
 - Trusts are requested to read the guidance on the allocation request process [here](#).
 - If your order is reduced and you need further support, please contact NHS Supply Chain Customer Services. Details can be found [here](#).
 - Non-acute customers can find information on the remote NHS Supply Chain team [here](#).
- When escalating orders, provide accurate weekly volumes required.

Additional information:

- Any organisation that has exhausted all options to secure supplies of suction catheters, and where there is a risk to continuity of patient care, should contact the National Supply Disruption Response on 0800 915 9964.
- If this supply disruption impacts on patient safety, please report through usual incident reporting systems.

