Great Western Hospitals NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

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Governance

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TRUST ALERTS

Alaris Syringe drivers all models: Risk of uncontrolled bolus of medicine due to failure of the syringe plunger spring.

The MHRA has issued a Medical Device Alert on all Alaris Asena pumps over 3 years old. The GWH has 152 affected pumps. The spring in the syringe arm may fail in some devices which may allow the syringe to move during use, causing siphoning. In some circumstances, this may result in a clinically significant over infusion. Neonatal and paediatric patients, or those receiving critical drugs, at low infusion rates, would be considered to be the most at risk if unintended fluid reaches the patient due to siphoning.

Action:

- To insert a syringe (see picture right above) users pinch the blue lever at the right end of the plunger arm, which activates pincers that close on the syringe. Before inserting a syringe, users should test the lever; you should hear a definite click as the pincers snap shut. If they do not close, return the pump to the Equipment Library or your equipment maintainer for inspection, **or**

- If there is no identifiable cause for the “Check Syringe” alarm(s) then the pump should be removed from clinical use and examined by qualified service personnel

Users should always report any damaged equipment for repair. Refer to the Intranet if you do not know who to report faulty equipment to. See:
Who To Call - A Quick Guide - Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Staff who require additional advice should contact John McGinty, Trust Equipment Manager and MDSO (Medical Device Safety Officer) by Email or on 01793 646095