

## Non-Coring Needles - De-Accessing from Internal Catheter Ports (The)

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**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Medical Treatment  
Personnel/Workforce - Occupational Health & Safety

**Summary** Use of internal catheter ports is increasing and use of non-coring needles to access these devices present increased risk of needle stick injury. This policy provides the means to reduce risk.

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**Applies to** Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Community Health Centres, Divisions of General Practice, NSW Dept of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Private Nursing Homes, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

**Distributed to** Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Divisions of General Practice, Health Associations Unions, Health Professional Associations and Related Organisations, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Private Nursing Homes, Tertiary Education Institutes

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**Director-General**

**Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.**

## CIRCULAR

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### THE DE-ACCESSING OF NON CORING NEEDLES FROM INTERNAL CATHETER PORTS.

Internal catheter ports (ie implantable devices including venous, arterial, epidural and peritoneal devices) are being increasingly used in the treatment of some illnesses. The use of non coring needles to access these devices presents an increased risk of needle stick injury, especially during the de-accessing procedure. The following guidelines are provided to reduce the risk of needle stick injury associated with de-accessing internal catheter ports: -

1. Where a full explanation of the de-accessing procedure is provided to the patient, and they are **conscious, able** and **willing** to assist, it is recommended that they stabilise and support the catheter port during de-accessing.
2. Where the patient is unable or unwilling to assist in this procedure extreme caution should be used when the health professional is stabilising the catheter port in order to remove the needle.
3. The NSW Health Department encourages health care facilities to explore the use of protective devices and needleless systems when available.

Area and District Health Services should develop local procedures to assist in the clinical management of these devices and to provide clear directions for the safe use of any locally available protective devices and/or needleless systems.

John Wyn Owen  
**Director General**

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

A 5      B      C 6      D      E  
F 1      G 2      H      I      J 6  
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