



Safety Notice SN011/16

Povidone-iodine for pre-operative antisepsis – Disruption to supply (amended on 21 November 2016)

21 November 2016

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- HAI Expert Advisory Committee, CEC
- Regulation and Compliance Unit
- Healthshare

Action required by:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance

We recommend you also inform:

- Directors of Surgery
- Directors of Anesthetics
- Operating Theatre Managers
- Infection Prevention and Control Services
- Director of Nursing and Midwifery
- Directors of Pharmacy
- Drugs and Therapeutics Committees and subcommittees

Content reviewed by:

- Healthcare Associated Infections Expert Advisory Committee
- Clinical Excellence Commission

Clinical Excellence Commission

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Review date

November 2019

Povidone-iodine solutions are commonly used for topical pre-operative antisepsis.

Povidone Iodine solutions can be sterile or non-sterile and their use is dependent on the procedure and/or surgical site.

Povidone-iodine is for external use.

It is important that Povidone-Iodine solutions are used as per the indications for use in their manufacturers' user guide. Products with an approved indication should be used as the first option. Where there is a need to use a product other than the specified indications, please refer to [PD2016_033 Approval Process of Medicines for Use in NSW Public Hospitals](#) Section 2.1.3 Use of off-label or unregistered medicines.

There has been a temporary shortage nationally of Pfizer's Povidone-Iodine 10% solutions that are indicated for "use as a pre-operative skin antiseptic and for the treatment of minor cuts, abrasions and skin infections." While these solutions are now available again it may take some time for these items to be restocked.

The solutions affected by the shortage are:

| ARTG No | ARTG label | Sterile or non-sterile |
|---------|--|------------------------|
| 10796 | POVIDONE-IODINE SOLUTION 10% w/v cutaneous solution bottle (100ml) | Non-sterile |
| 12643 | POVIDONE-IODINE SOLUTION 10% w/v cutaneous solution ampoule (30ml) | Sterile |

There is another Povidone Iodine solution on State Contract:

| ARTG No | ARTG label | Sterile or non-sterile |
|---------|--|------------------------|
| 21199 | Herron Riodine Antiseptic Solution Povidone-Iodine 100mg/mL bottle | Non-sterile |

Herron Riodine Antiseptic Solution Povidone-Iodine:

- Is indicated for "antisepsis of minor cuts, wounds and abrasions and treatment of minor skin infections"
- Should not be used as a topical pre-operative skin antiseptic.
- Is a non-sterile solution and for external use only.

Local Health Districts/Networks should

1. Distribute this safety notice to the appropriate areas for action.
2. Review for what purpose various Povidone Iodine 10% solutions are used by each health facility's perioperative unit and procedural areas.
3. Establish that only Povidone Iodine 10% solutions indicated for use as a pre-operative skin antiseptic are used for pre-operative skin-antisepsis.
4. Ensure a system is in place to document actions taken.
5. Report surgical site infection (SSI) for those facilities that have used Herron Riodine Antiseptic Solution Povidone-Iodine as a pre-operative skin antiseptic.