



Safety Information 004/21

Povidone-Iodine Solution Use in NSW Hospitals

19 August 2021

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Director Regulation and Compliance Unit

We recommend you also inform:

- Operating Theatre Departments
- Directors of Operating Theatres
- Directors of Surgery
- Directors of Anaesthetics
- Infection Prevention & Control Services
- Directors of Nursing & Midwifery
- Directors of Pharmacy
- Drug & Therapeutics Committees
- Directors Medical Imaging

Expert Reference Group

Content reviewed by:

- Healthcare Associated Expert Advisory Committee
- Medication Safety Expert Advisory Committee

Clinical Excellence Commission

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Intranet Website: <http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs>

Review date

August 2023

Background

This Safety Information replaces Safety Notice 005/17.

Povidone-Iodine solution is available in both sterile and non-sterile preparations. The use of non-sterile preparations in sterile body sites is not recommended.

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) registered indications for povidone-iodine solution are for external use only. Use outside of the registered indications is “off-label”. As povidone-iodine solution is a medicine, approval by local Drug and Therapeutic Committees for off-label use is required giving consideration to the evidence supporting the proposed use.

Examples of off-label use within Operating Theatres/Procedural Areas where there is currently limited supporting evidence (new evidence may emerge) includes:

- Intra-cavity/joint lavage ¹⁻⁴
- Soaking or rinsing of implantable items before insertion, e.g. breast implants, hernia/gynaecological mesh and central-venous access devices (CVAD).

The standard process for approval of medicines and their use (including off-label use) for listing on hospital formulary is detailed in [PD2016_033 Approval process of medicines for use in NSW public hospitals](#).

Recommendations

1. Off-label use of povidone-iodine solution should be approved by the local Drug and Therapeutic Committee (D&TC) in accordance with [PD2016_033 Approval process of medicines for use in NSW public hospitals](#).
2. All clinical areas must have processes in place for storage arrangements and communication that distinguish sterile and/or non-sterile povidone-iodine solution solutions.
3. All relevant clinicians are aware that povidone-iodine solution is available in both sterile and non-sterile forms, and that sterile povidone-iodine solution is the recommended product for use in a sterile field (for example: internal procedures following approval by the local D&TC).
4. Clinicians (including nurses) delivering treatment involving povidone-iodine solution, should not change treatment plans without prior consultation of the primary treating team.

Suggested actions by Local Health Districts/Networks

1. Distribute this Safety Information sheet to the appropriate Managers/Heads of Departments and local Drug and Therapeutic Committees.
2. Develop local processes that support the above recommendations.
3. Establish communication pathways that support clinician engagement for meeting PD2016_033.

References:

- 1) Allegranzi, B., Bischoff, P., de Jonge, S., Kubilay, N., Zayed, B., Gomes, S., Abbas, M., Atema, J., Gans, S., van Rijen, M., Boermeester, M., Egger, M., Kluytmans, J., Pittet, D. and Solomkin, J., 2016. New WHO recommendations on preoperative measures for surgical site infection prevention: an evidence-based global perspective. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 16(12), pp. e276-e287.
- 2) Kim, C-H., Kim, H., Lee, S.J., Yoon, J.Y., Moon J-K., Lee, S. and Yoon, P.W., 2020. The Effect of Povidone-Iodine Lavage in Preventing Infection After Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *The Journal of Arthroplasty*, 35, pp.2267-2273.
- 3) Madhava Sai Sivapuram, MBBS Student. Evidence Summary. Wound Irrigation and Intracavity Lavage: Prevention of Surgical Site Infection. The Joanna Briggs Institute EBP Database, JBI@Ovid. 2020; JBI19427.
- 4) Solomkin, J., Mazuski, J., Blanchard, J., Itani, K., Ricks, P., Dellinger, E., Allen, G., Kelz, R., Reinke, C. and Berríos-Torres, S., 2017. Introduction to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee Guideline for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infections. *Surgical Infections*, 18(4), pp.385-393.