

IPC Bulletin for GP Practice staff

Issue No. 22 – December 2019

To support GP staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.




Use of superabsorbent polymer gel granules (including sachets, mats and loose powder)

Due to a number of incidents, including several patient deaths, the National Patients Safety Agency (NPSA) has released a further bulletin advising against the use of superabsorbent polymer gel granules, sachets or mats in urine specimen pots and containers.

NHS England and NHS Improvement advises:

- Polymer granules to be used only for **exceptional** infection control purposes
- Any organisation still using these products are to protect patients by introducing strict restrictions on their use
- Healthcare organisations to follow the guidance set out by NHS England
- Healthcare organisations to complete 'Actions required by 01/06/2020'

https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/6190/PS_Alert_Polymer_28_Nov_2019_FINAL.pdf

Keep  Antibiotics Working

Are you an Antibiotic Guardian? Have you made the pledge?

We know:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antibiotics do not kill viruses such as flu • Misuse is one of the reasons why antibiotics lose their effectiveness
Lets keep antibiotics working by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribing antibiotics only as necessary • Pledging to become an 'Antibiotic Guardian'
Educating patients to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure antibiotics are taken exactly as prescribed • Ensure the course is always finished • Never save antibiotics for later or share with others • Speak to a pharmacist who will recommend the best treatment to help treat cold or flu symptoms

Visit <https://antibioticguardian.com/> to become an Antibiotic Guardian.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk 01423 557340 Find us on:

