



Safety Notice 020/18

Salem Sump Nasogastric Tube Shortage

14 December 2018

Distributed to:

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

Action required by:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Clinical Product Managers

We recommend you also inform:

- Heads of Departments
- Directors of Medical Services
- Directors of Nursing and Midwifery
- Nursing Unit managers

Expert Reference Group

Content reviewed by:

- Office of Chief Health Officer, MoH
- HealthShare NSW
- Agency for Clinical Innovation
- Director Patient Safety
- Gastroenterologist
- Emergency Physician

Clinical Excellence Commission

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Review date

March 2019

Salem Sump tubes are double lumen nasogastric tubes used in a variety of clinical settings and conditions to aspirate or decompress stomach contents. They are frequently used in an emergency setting to assist in the management of patients requiring emergency intubation, for patients with continual vomiting due to bowel obstruction or following ingestion of a toxic substance.

Current supply

There is a disruption to supply of Salem Sump Nasogastric Tubes in NSW affecting all sizes of tubes. There is a limited supply of stock remaining in the NSW warehouse supplying stock to NSW public hospitals, with current stock levels expected to be depleted in December 2018. The supply disruption is expected to last for approximately one month.

NSW Health are working to source alternative supplies, however these are not expected to be available until mid-January.

Implications

In an emergency situation, delayed or reduced access to Salem Sump Tube for aspiration or decompression of stomach contents could lead to inadequate treatment in some patients or potential aspiration.

To manage the disruption to supply of Salem Sump Tubes, in the clinical environment, consider:

- Use of alternative clinical management strategies, where clinically appropriate (including use of single lumen tubes if available and appropriate)
- Where practicable, use experienced clinicians to insert tubes to increase likelihood of success on first attempts
- Take steps to reduce wastage where multiple attempts for insertion are required
- Consider the use of smaller size tubes than normal, where appropriate, and stock is available

Recommended actions by Local Health Districts/Networks

1. Forward information to appropriate area for action.
2. All facilities should:
 - a. Assess current stock levels at each facility
 - b. Redistribute within facilities to ensure critical areas have adequate supply on hand
 - c. Consider distribution of stock across LHD's to maintain supply where needed
 - d. To support equity of supply to all areas, do not over order.
3. Notify the Clinical Excellence Commission of:
 - a. Approximate stock levels and expected depletion date by 12 mid-day Tuesday 18th December
 - b. Any facilities/LHD's that have critically low levels.
4. Ensure a system is in place to document actions taken.