



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
POLICY COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: All Health Authorities

TRANSMITTAL DATE: February 21, 2017

COMMUNIQUÉ NUMBER: 2017-02

CLIFF NUMBER: 1075990

SUBJECT: Use of Triclosan Coated Sutures

DETAILS: This policy is based on the results of an updated evidence review by the BC Health Technology Assessment Committee and it replaces Policy Communiqué 2015-26: *Discontinuation of Use of Triclosan Coated Sutures*

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

MINISTRY CONTACTS: Executive Director, Acute and Provincial Services Branch,
Hospital, Diagnostic and Clinical Services Division
Executive Director, Research and Innovation Branch,
Partnerships and Innovation Division

Stephen Brown
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Background

The British Columbia Health Technology Review process was established by Leadership Council to provide evidence informed recommendations about the public provision of non-drug health technologies that will contribute to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of British Columbians and provide value for money. A Memorandum of Understanding setting out the terms of cooperation, agreement and expectations for a provincial non-drug health technology assessment process was signed by health authority Chief Executive Officers and the Deputy Minister of Health in November 2011. Further information about the Health Technology Review process may be found at www.health.gov.bc.ca/htr/.

As part of the health technology review process, the evidence associated with the use of triclosan coated sutures for preventing surgical site infections was reviewed by the BC Health Technology Assessment Committee (the HTA Committee) in 2015, resulting in Policy Communiqué 2015-26: *Discontinuation of Use of Triclosan Coated Sutures*. In 2016, the HTA Committee re-evaluated the use of triclosan coated sutures in light of new evidence. The HTA Committee's updated recommendations were presented to the Standing Committee of Interdisciplinary Co-Chairs and Leadership Council in September 2016. This updated policy is based on the decision of Leadership Council.

Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to guide the use of triclosan coated sutures based on an HTA Committee review of the clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence.

Scope

This policy applies to all health authority funded facilities in British Columbia.

Policy

The use of triclosan coated sutures should be considered for patients requiring abdominal surgery, as that is where there is the greatest evidence of its effectiveness in reducing surgical site infections. Use of triclosan coated sutures beyond this patient population may be considered on a case by case basis where it is determined to be medically necessary based on clinical evidence.

Implementation

This policy is effective immediately. Health authorities will monitor the use of sutures to ensure it aligns with provincial policy.

References/Related Policies

- Ministry of Health Policy Communiqué 2013-13: *Provincial Health Technology Review (Non-Drug, Non-IT)*
- Replaces Ministry of Health Policy Communiqué 2015-26: *Discontinuation of Use of Triclosan Coated Sutures*.

Review

Approval for broad use of triclosan coated sutures for any additional patient populations will be decided by the Standing Committee for Health Services and Population Health, in consultation with health authorities and the Ministry of Health, as appropriate.

Contacts

For information on:

- This policy, please contact the Executive Director, Acute and Provincial Services Branch, Hospital, Diagnostic and Clinical Services Division, Ministry of Health.
- The Health Technology Review and the HTA Committee's findings and recommendations, contact the Executive Director, Research and Innovation Branch, Partnerships and Innovation Division, Ministry of Health.
- Procurement services, contact the Vice President, Supply Chain, BC Clinical and Support Services.