Insulin Syringes

The European Directive introduced into UK legislation in 2013 to protect healthcare workers from sharps injuries resulted in the Trust introducing safer devices wherever possible.

Until very recently we encouraged our staff to use BD Autoshield needles for the administration of insulin. Due to some concerns with the Autoshield product we have changed to the BD SafetyGlide syringe.

For patients unable to self-administer, insulin should be drawn out of the vial and administered using a BD SafetyGlide syringe.

Only insulin SafetyGlide syringes should be used for the administration of insulin.

Insulin must NEVER be given using a ml syringe due a high risk of overdose.

BD SafetyGlide syringes should NEVER be used to withdraw insulin from any insulin pen device or cartridge as doing this would leave air in the insulin cartridge, putting the patient at risk of receiving an incorrect dose.

Only insulin in a vial should be drawn up into a safety syringe for the administration by health care professional. Some insulins are not available in a vial therefore an alternative insulin may be need to be prescribed when it is to be administered by a member of staff.