

By email only

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To:

- Trust Medical Directors
- RQIA
- GPs and Practice Nurses
- Community Pharmacies
- NI GDPS (Michael Donaldson)

24th October 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Re: *Burkholderia stabilis*: associated with contaminated cleansing wipes

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) issued a safety alert to health professionals about recent infections potentially linked to contaminated non-sterile wipes. The infection relates to *Burkholderia stabilis* (sequence type (ST) 480) and this outbreak affects all of the UK, including Northern Ireland.

The [National Patient Safety Alert](#) (issued and circulated summer 2025 – copy attached) reinforced existing infection prevention and control guidance in particular that:

- Non-sterile wipes are not suitable for intravascular device care
- All patients with intravascular devices need this information as part of their care
- Only wipes marked as sterile are used on broken skin

All providers should once again review the required actions in the letter and ensure they are followed.

UKHSA and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are advising the public to stop using particular branded non-sterile alcohol-free wipes and to dispose of them. Healthcare providers (including but not limited to Trusts, Primary Care, Dentistry, Pharmacy, private providers and care homes) should review the product information listed in the Gov.Uk [news story](#) and ensure these products are not available in clinical areas.

The implicated products that were identified have been withdrawn from sale. However, they may still be found in some first aid kits, and in people's homes. These products are understood to not routinely be supplied to the HSC in Northern Ireland. They are non-sterile wipes.

Products identified include:

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing



- ValueAid Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Microsafe Moist Wipe Alcohol Free
- Steroplast Sterowipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Reliwipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes

Actions required:

1. All providers review and implement the actions in the [National Patient Safety Alert](#) issued – email dated 7th July 2025 refers
2. All providers of healthcare review the product information listed in the Gov.Uk [news story](#) and ensure these products are not available in clinical areas

Yours sincerely,



Dr Joanne McClean
Director of Public Health



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Copy to: PHA Duty Room