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17 June 2015

Ms Rosemary Lynch

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Dear Ms Lynch

Thank you for your request for official information which was forwarded to Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) via the Ministry of Health on 26 May 2015.

In response to your questions, please see the following information:

1. *How much money is spent annually on the purchase of hollow-bore needles for use in the NZ public healthcare system, and who is the provider of these supplies?*

NMDHB is unable to provide an accurate spend on hollow-bore needles. A number of medical devices contain a hollow-bore needle as part of a wider device. These medical devices do not always fit within a common category structure for reporting solely on hollow-bore needles.

A category 'Syringe, Needle & Sharps Bins' exists which captures a number of these devices which contain a hollow-bore needle. Once Sharps Bins and other non needle related devices are removed, total spend in this category per annual for NMDHB is \$212,000.

A range of providers exist for the products. The top five are:

B.BRAUN
BECTON DICKINSON {BD} LIMITED (NZ)
OBEX MEDICAL LTD
JOHNSON & JOHNSON MEDICAL NZ
JACKSON ALLISON

2. *What are the numbers and types of (hollow-bore) needles purchased annually for use in public health?*

In total 307,000 devices were used with the criteria in 1 above. Broadly, the categories these fall under are:

IV Cannula
Biopsy
Dental
Hypodermic
Spinal
Vascular access
Insulin

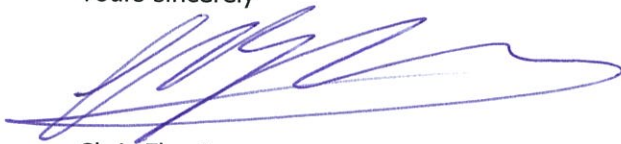
3. *How many public health care workers, who have experienced a needle stick injury while in the workplace, test positive for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and/or the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) annually?*

No staff members have acquired hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV as a result of a workplace needle stick injury.

4. *Does the Ministry have any plans and/or policies in place to reduce instances of needle stick injuries in the public healthcare system?*

NMDHB has a robust process in place for reporting and monitoring of body fluid exposures in the workplace. We have used needle-free IV systems for well over 20 years and in the past 2 years have introduced safety engineered IV cannulae in clinical areas. We also provide safety engineered syringes for high-risk services eg Community Mental Health.

Yours sincerely



Chris Fleming
Chief Executive