

## Using Devices Safely

### Before Use Assessment 1

- What are the patient/client social and clinical needs?
- Which of the available devices best meets those needs?
- Has a risk assessment been undertaken?
- Are the risks associated with this device acceptable and can they be minimised?
- If the device has been bought privately is the patient or client aware of their personal responsibility?



### Before Use Assessment 2

If the medical device is to be used by patients and/ or careers, have the following been taken in to account;

- Physical capabilities – e.g. manual dexterity
- Sensory capabilities – e.g. vision, hearing
- Ability to understand and remember
- Previous experience with the medical device
- The patient or clients expectations
- The environment in which the device will be used.
- Aware of their personal responsibility



### Before use, knowledge of the device;

- Is the device to be used in the way intended by the manufacture?
- What are the limitations and contradictions for use?
- Has the device been maintained in line with the manufactures instructions?
- Has the device been checked/calibrated after maintenance?
- Is the device within its expiry or use by date?
- Who is able to carry out pre-use checks?
- Are there any signs of wear, damage or faults?
- Where can a replacement device be obtained?



### Ask yourself 1;

- Do I know how to set up and use this device?
- Have I read the user instructions; and are they attached to the device (if this is possible)?
- Have I been trained in its use?
- How was my competency in relation to this device assessed?
- Do I know how this device should perform and the monitoring that needs to be done to check its performance?
- Am I using the correct additional equipment, e.g. disposable infusion sets for an infusion pump?



### Ask yourself 2;

- Do I know how to recognise whether the device has failed?
- Do I know what to do if the device fails?
- Do I know how and whom to report a device related adverse incident?
- Has the device been modified, if so, has liability been checked with the manufacture?
- In case of devices purchased over the counter, have I advised the user to register with the manufacture for ease of contact in case of urgent upgrades or recalls?



### During Use;

- Does checking the medical device indicate it is functioning correctly and to the manufactures specifications?
- What actions should be taken if the device is not functioning properly?
- Has this been documented?
- Is there an up-to-date documentation to record regular checking of the device? Have you documented the details (name and serial number) of the device being used?
- Is the equipment still appropriate in light of the patient or clients changing needs?



### After use;

- What cleaning and/or decontamination are required?
- Does the medical device show any signs of wear, damage or fault that should be reported?
- Is any servicing, maintenance or repair required?
- Were there any problems in using this device which should be noted and could be rectified for the future? E.g. was any information missing from the patient/career guidance which would have been useful?
- If used in home, how will the medical device be returned to the owner, disposed of, or safely stored?

