

# UPDATE ON INJECTING EQUIPMENT IN VICTORIA

Terumo are no longer manufacturing the 1ml 27 gauge syringe in the United States. This means that the US-made Terumo equipment is no longer available to order through the NSP orders system, and is therefore no longer available for NSP clients.

The shift to Korean-made Terumo equipment has led to issues for NSPs and their clients. Some reports indicate that dissatisfaction with the Korean-made Terumo equipment has led to increased rates of sharing and re-using. This is a significant public health risk and we all have a role in trying to educate clients around safer use messages.

## What's happening to source different equipment?

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and Penington Institute are working with NSPs to secure alternative equipment through a consumer feedback survey. However with more than 10 million syringes distributed each year in Victoria alone there is a lead time on supply. This means it's likely that the other brands of equipment will start being distributed in early 2017.

## What can we do in the meantime?

While we all wait for alternative equipment, please reinforce safer using messages with your NSP clients. These messages should be about both general safer use as well as ways to more safely use the Korean-made Terumo equipment.

Some NSP clients in Victoria have successfully gotten used to the Korean equipment. We have incorporated their tips into resources that will help you communicate with clients. The poster and

postcards are being distributed to NSPs and AOD services, and the postcards will be inserted in pre-packaged fit packs available through the NSP orders system.

## What can I do to support safer injecting practices?

The NSP system is designed to reduce the spread of infection and the harms associated with drug use. We all have a responsibility to educate and support clients in the safer use of the available equipment.

The time you spend with clients helping them to more safely use the Korean-made equipment will help reduce the likelihood of re-using and sharing unsterile equipment. Please talk to clients, emphasising that there are things they can do to more safely use the equipment while alternatives are being sourced.

Please work closely with clients and encourage them to take equipment with them each time they visit the service – and use the resources to spread the word about how to more safely use the Korean equipment.