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Dear Colleague

METAL ON METAL HIP REPLACEMENTS – UPDATE ON MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Summary

This letter sets out the background to the metal on metal (MOM) hip replacement guidance and requests confirmation that all services are complying with the monitoring plan we set out in the CEL 23 (2012).

Background

CEL 23 (2012) issued on the 29 June 2012 provided guidance on the type of monitoring that must be followed for all patients with MOM hip replacements in NHSScotland. At that time up to 4,000 patients in NHSScotland were at risk, although not all patients required detailed review. The CEL required regular data on the monitoring as per the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/medical-device-alert-metal-on-metal-mom-hip-replacements-updated-advice-with-patient-follow-ups>

Since 2012 there have been no metal on metal total primary stemmed hip replacements carried out in NHSScotland. Limited numbers of metal on metal resurfacing operations have continued, based on patient requests and should follow the same advice on clinical governance and consent.

In 2013 the CMO (2013) 2 letter advised the simplification of data collection and the timing for the final submission of data to the Scottish Government, with the assurance that Boards were following the guidance.

From the Chief Medical Officer
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For action
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Assessment

The recent publication on the BMJ Open website of a retrospective cohort study on one specific device¹ has raised the profile of metal on metal hip replacements. I am therefore writing to request confirmation from you that your services are complying with the guidance we set out in the CEL 23 (2012).

I look forward to your response by the end of August 2016.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Calderwood

DR CATHERINE CALDERWOOD

¹ <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/6/4/e007847.full.pdf+html?sid=2b38d9cf-e56e-4ca5-9144-69017cef7ce4>