



# Safer Practice Notice

## Status

- Active   
Updated   
Resolved

## Zone Application

- Provincial   
North   
Edmonton   
Central   
Calgary   
South

06 Jan 2016

## For Action By:

- Emergency  
Departments  
 NICU  
 Pediatric Units/PICU  
 Anaesthesia  
 Physicians  
 Nurses

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## Choosing Correct Syringe Size- Medfusion Syringe Pump

### Issue

The Medfusion syringe pump is able to automatically detect syringe size for all the syringes except for the 1mL and 3mL BD syringes because the barrel diameters are identical in size. This creates a risk of under or over infusion and relates to Smiths Medical Medfusion syringe pump (models 3500 & 4000)



### Action

- If using a BD 1mL or 3mL syringe when programming the Medfusion syringe pump make sure to select the correct syringe size when prompted.
- Pause to check that the syringe size matches the medication order, the syringe loaded in the infusion pump and the syringe size selected on the pump before starting the infusion.
- If the syringe size selected on the pump does not match the syringe size loaded in the infusion pump immediately stop the infusion and assess the patient. Check the medication order and reprogram the pump as necessary.
- Report any incidents of incorrect syringe selection in the Reporting and Learning System (RLS) to aid in tracking this issue.
- On-going provincial assessment is underway to determine the best long term solution to reduce the potential for incorrect syringe size

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