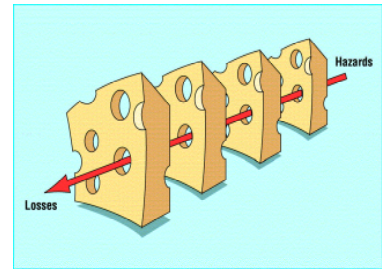


Northern Ireland Medicines Governance Team



Update to SAFETY MEMO 4

To: Directors of Pharmaceutical Services / Trust Pharmacy Managers

Cc: Dr N Morrow, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, DHSSPS
Directors of Pharmacy, HSS Boards

From: Medicines Governance Team

Date: 21st February 2007

RE: Administration of intravenous IV phenytoin injection

The Medicines Governance Team issued Safety Memo 4 in August 2003 relating to the administration of intravenous phenytoin to increase awareness of the risks associated with the intravenous administration of phenytoin. Where the administration method involved dilution in sodium chloride 0.9%, practical steps were advised to ensure use of the inline filter.

An administration summary sheet was distributed in August 2003 to highlight the two methods of administration. Please be advised that this summary sheet is now being withdrawn and users should refer to the current Summary of Product Characteristics and other Medicines Information reference texts when advising on the administration of intravenous phenytoin.

It may also be timely to review the measures put in place to deal with this issue in your hospital and ensure that intravenous phenytoin is administered safely.