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Your reference:

Our reference: STD/PG4e SCB/NHR

Date: 10 June 1988

LIMITED HAZARD NOTICE

VIAMED - PHOTOTHERAPY LIGHT SHIELD

Summary

The Department has received a report that these tinted perspex shields which are used with headboxes during phototherapy may not be effective in protecting the eyes of the babies from the ultra violet radiation and bright light emitted by the phototherapy equipment.

1. Background

The traditional practice during infant phototherapy is to cover the eyes of babies to protect them from the light and ultra violet radiation.

2. As an alternative to this Viamed introduced in 1984 a tinted perspex sheet, shaped in the form of an inverted U which fits over a standard incubator head box and protects the babies eyes from radiation.

3. The Department has some limited and so far uncorroborated evidence that these shields may not be effective in stopping harmful radiation.

4. This HN is published as an early warning, and as more information becomes available, supplemented by measurements commissioned by the Department, a further publication will be issued.

5. As the location of all these Phototherapy Light Shields is known with certainty, it is possible to send a Limited Hazard Notice directly to known users.

Action

6. Users of Perspex Phototherapy Light Shields, supplied by Viamed, 15 Station Road, Cross Hills, Keighley, West Yorkshire and shaped in the form of an inverted U, some 9" x 8" x 6" are requested to withdraw these from use immediately, and revert to the traditional method of eye protection.

7. Further information will be sent to you in due course.

8. Enquiries to the Department may be addressed to Mr S C Bishop or Mr N H Richardson at the address given at the top of this Notice.

3590Q/MV/1

SAFETY ACTION BULLETIN

No 45

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
WELSH OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
(NORTHERN IRELAND)

SAB(89)19
March 1989

PHOTOTHERAPY LIGHT SHIELDS

SUMMARY

An effective material called Amber 300 has been identified which overcomes the problems discussed in the Limited Hazard Notice issued in June 1988 to the 55 hospitals having defective light shields. At that time the Department recommended the withdrawal from use of these dark grey tinted headbox shields because they were suspected of transmitting more ultra violet and blue light during phototherapy than was safe. Headboxes constructed of Amber 300 are now available.

ACTION

This information should be brought to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include safety officers, safety representatives, supplies officers, nursing and midwifery staff in neonatal intensive care units, SCBU's and maternity departments.

It is recommended that tinted headbox shields made only from Amber 300 should be used in conjunction with headboxes as eye protection during phototherapy.

Plain perspex headboxes and coloured perspex phototherapy shields made of Amber 300 can be obtained from either of the following:

Bio-Med Engineering Ltd
Headlands Road
Liversedge
Yorks WF15 7NT
(Tel: 0924 407811)

Viamed
15 Station Road
Cross Hills
Keighley
West Yorks BD20 7DT
(Tel: 0535 34542).

BACKGROUND

1. The result of light transmission tests of the original dark grey tinted headbox shields by the Department of Clinical Physics, Glasgow and the National Physical Laboratory confirmed the excessive transmission of UV and blue light through the material.
2. Following discussions with ICI a perspex material called Amber 300 was identified and tested. It was evident from the results that a shield made from this coloured material would prevent any transmission of UV or blue light over the test range of 300 to greater than 500 nm. This includes the range of radiation considered to be injurious to the infants' retinas.
3. Being of a bright colour these shields enable a rather better view of the baby's head than the original dark grey tinted shields which of course should not be used.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Kingston By Pass Road
SURBITON, Surrey, KT6 5QN
Telephone: 01-398 4166 ext.

Our reference:

Your reference:

Dear Mr Lamb.

13 Sept 85

Herewith ~~the~~ ^{at} top which we discussed
this morning

You kindly offered ~~to~~ carry out your
proposed modification on this one as a
sample prior to modifying the remainder
in service at various hospitals.

Thank you for your cooperation in this
matter and I hope we can quickly bring
it to a satisfactory conclusion.

Yours Sincerely

C.J. GADD
STBID.

ENQUIRIES

4. Technical enquiries regarding this bulletin should be addressed as follows:

England

Mr S C Bishop or Mr N H Richardson
Department of Health
NHS Procurement Directorate
14 Russell Square
London WC1B 5EP
(Tel: 01 636 6811 Ext 3103/3317)

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for health authority use as instructed locally.

TITLE: HUMAN DURA AND CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE

Hazard(89)11

17 March 1989

Sent to department
responsible for action:

Date

Action completed:

Signature Location Date

Comments on action taken:

Return to after
completed action:

Date