

August 2015

Dear Customer,

As a valued customer of BD, we want to make you aware of information pertaining to certain BD sterile plastic disposable syringes. We have received reports of reduced drug potency of certain medications when stored in these syringes. We have determined that the cause of decreased potency is due to an interaction of some drugs with one of the two types of rubber stopper that we use in our syringes. This issue occurs only when drugs are compounded and/or repackaged (pre-filled and stored) in syringes containing these stoppers.

To date, decreased potency has been reported for the following drugs: fentanyl, rocuronium, neostigmine, morphine, midazolam, methadone, atropine, hydromorphone, cisatracurium, and remifentanyl. Decreased drug potency has only been reported when drugs are stored in these syringes.

BD general purpose syringes have been Health Canada cleared for fluid aspiration and administration only, and not for drug storage. It is important to note that decreased drug potency is not observed when syringes are filled and used promptly, as per the ISO 7664 Standard that defines the use of these products. We also note that BD Insulin Syringes, BD PosiFlush™ Pre-filled Saline and Heparin Syringes, and BD Pharmaceutical Systems' prefillable syringes do not use the rubber stopper associated with this issue.

We have distributed certain lots of 3 mL and 5 mL syringes in Canada that contain the rubber stopper associated with this concern (alternate stopper). We have also distributed limited quantities of 10 and 30 mL syringes with the alternate stopper. ***If you are using these BD syringes for their intended use of general purpose fluid aspiration and prompt administration of drugs, you can continue to safely use any lot of these products.***

To confirm that a syringe does not contain the stopper associated with this issue, please perform the following steps:

1. Determine the lot number of your syringes. The lot number is a 7 digit number that is shown on the product packaging.
2. Access the BD website – www.bd.com/ca/ and find the 'Alert' associated with this issue. Click on the link to the file for alternate stopper information and follow the instructions to determine whether your syringe contains the alternate stopper. If the lot number appears in the file, the syringe contains the stopper associated with decreased drug potency after storage. If the lot number does not appear in the file, the syringe does not contain the affected stopper.
3. Alternately, you can contact BD Customer Service at 1-866-979-9408 or send an email to Syringe_Inquiry_Canada@bd.com and we would be pleased to assist you.

Please remember that if you are using BD syringes for their intended use of general purpose fluid aspiration and prompt administration of drugs, you can continue to safely use any lot of these products.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your local BD Account Manager or Customer Service at 1-866-979-9408. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind Regards,



Greg Miziolek
Vice-President Medication and Procedural Solutions, Canada