**Request for Information – Feedback Summary Sheet**

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| **Request made by:** | | Sarah.McAuslan-Crine@UHBristol.nhs.uk | | **Responses to be sent back to:** | [Nicola.Freeman-Fielding@UHBristol.nhs.uk](mailto:Nicola.Freeman-Fielding@UHBristol.nhs.uk) |
| **Date request made:** | | 12/01/2017 | | **Date sent out:** | 12/01/2017 |
| **Details of Request:** | | Further to a safety issue we had with pink mouthcare sponges (heads falling off / choking issues) we have been using alternative products (Moutheze wands). We are now trialling a new mouthcare product made by Halyard (<http://www.halyardhealth.co.uk/media/17588647/hc687-00_uk_oralcare_salesbrochure_2016.pdf> ) in which is a pack of sponges which are green and in principle the same as the pink sponges.  The overall reaction by patients is that they are not keen on the Moutheze when they just want to suck on a bit of water / need a gentle sponge for a very sore mouth etc.  So…the quandary is – do we advocate using these which are made by a different supplier but could have same potential risk (sponge on a stick) although no cases yet that I am aware of**.  I am therefore trying to do some enquiring as to what other places are using:  Pink sponges (if yes any incidents?) or other? – if yes what other please?** | | | |
| **No.** | **Response Received From:** | | **Details of Response:** | | |
| 1 | JONES, Elaine (WESTON AREA HEALTH NHS TRUST) <elaine.jones21@nhs.net> | | Pink sticks were withdrawn from the Trust following issues (not here!)  We went over to use Mouteez but the patients found them uncomfortable, staff found them too hard.  We had an increase in mouth sores and we found them too harsh on the delicate membranes of MOF patients.  We now use Toothette and are getting on really well with them.  They were bought to us and approved by Infection Control and we get ours through NHS supply chain. | | |
| 2 | CHRISTIE, Peggy (TORBAY AND SOUTH DEVON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST) <p.christie@nhs.net> | | We tried the moutheze wands and they were universally hated by patients and staff alike.  We have just introduced an Orocare mini toothbrush and an oral suction wand (used with gel)which is working well. | | |
| 3 | McNally Elizabeth (UHMB) <Elizabeth.McNally@mbht.nhs.uk> | | We did have an incident around a year ago where a pink swab head fell down the airway of an intubated patient. We were able to retrieve it and there was no harm to the patient fortunately but obviously it caused concern. I do not remember what make the swabs were but we did raise the issue at the nursing supplies group and have since moved to a comparable product which is also a pink swab. It is called the polygum swab and is made by a company called Unisurge. They come in a large packet with a warning attached promting staff to check the head is firmly attached prior to use. We have not had any incidents to date with this product. | | |
| 4 | Jane Adderley <Jane.Adderley@mkuh.nhs.uk> | | We have lived and are still living this conundrum! My approach is a sponge is a sponge and anything else that is effectively manufactured in 2 parts will be no more. We’ve tried the intersurgical oral wands which are silicone and act little bit like the moutheze  but they’re not really liked. Too big for vented pts and not a nice ‘feel’ for HDU pts. I’ve now gone to intersurgical toothbrushes which are going down well for both sets of pts and keep ome oral wands.  I’m standing by for our next meeting and see how the feedback is going but I can’t see anything that is like for like compared to the old sponge. | | |
| 5 | Rob Morris (Aneurin Bevan UHB - Intensive Care Unit) <Rob.Morris@wales.nhs.uk> | | We have exactly the same problem the (Moutheze wands) they do not offer patients the comfort of the old Pink Sponge Sticks (Lollipops) and many patients will not use them.  I did source an alternative but was told by our procurement department that any sponge head stick will pose the same risks as the old Pink Sticks.    When I attended some of the Oral Care bundle working groups ` I did highlight that the Pink Sticks were used more for comfort than actual oral care and a replacement / alternative should be procured but was told a toothbrush can offer the same comfort | | |
| 6 | MARTIN, Pippa (TORBAY AND SOUTH DEVON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST) <pippa.pinggera@nhs.net> | | We had the same problem with the pink sponges and found the moutheze to rough. After much trialing, we now use the OroCare Mini toothbrush and the Orocare oral suction wand. Although good for teeth brushing and mouthcare (as much softer), aren't so good for holding water so tend to use Oralive gel which helps a bit.    I'd be really interested to see if you do go ahead with the new sponges, how they work out. | | |
| 7 | Jeary Janet <Janet.Jeary@boltonft.nhs.uk> | | Bolton critical care use pink swabs and have had  no incidents,  We don’t keep them in the mouthwash  solution or water for any length of time, we just dip them in  so that the stick doesn’t go soggy | | |
| 8 | William Scott <William.Scott@UHSM.NHS.UK> | | I’m under the impression that there was an MHRA alert re the pink mouthcare sponges a couple of years ago, following this we banned their use in our clinical area and moved to the oral care product you are now trialling.  We have not had any issues with these or any complaints from patients. | | |
| 9 | Charlesworth Sarah (RJF) BHFT <Sarah.Charlesworth@burtonft.nhs.uk> | | We have been using SAGE products as a trust for around 9 months following the withdrawal of the pink sponges from practice.  In Critical Care we use the SAGE Q Care Oral Cleansing and Suctioning System packs..  Each system pack consists of 2 hanging packs which provide mouth care packs for 24hrs.  Each hanging pack consists of :  X1 pack containing: an untreated suction toothbrush/oral solution burst packet (contains chlorhexidine)/ a mouth swab  X2 packs containing: a suction swab treated with sodium bicarbonate/perox-a-mint solution burst packet/mouth moisturiser/applicator swab.  The toothbrush pack is used for an episode of mouth care, and then the next 2 episodes of mouth care uses the a suction pack. Then back to the toothbrush pack  and so on.  Results with this system have been positive from the patients who do like the mouth moisturiser (can be bought separately).  The suction toothbrush and suction swabs are effective at cleaning and clearing secretions, and staff have found them easy to use.  Because the packs are sealed there are no spillages and they hang unobtrusively in the bed space. | | |
| 10 | Albon Michelle (LTHTR) <Michelle.Albon@lthtr.nhs.uk> | | Us in Preston have been having the same dilemma. We are currently using the haylard mouthcare pack for our level 3 patients , we have done a trial of the intersurgical mouth care packs and we are planning on going with them for level 3 patients.  <http://www.intersurgical.co.uk/products/critical-care/oral-care>  we are getting a pack which doesnt contain any sponges.  This has been a challenge for over 6 months to find a company which doesn't use sponges . now that we have nearly sorted the level 3 mouth care we are going to look into level 2, we had also considered moutheze . what we are currently thinking about is specking to intersurgical and see if they can do us a deal on the wands , therefore we could use them for level 2 care.  We are surprised no other company's appear to be bringing out an alternative.  as a unit we are wanting to move away from sponges, for the safety factor  if you get any further ideas of products can u let us know | | |
| 11 | Rowan Patricia (RQ6) RLBUHT <Patricia.Rowan@rlbuht.nhs.uk> | | We swapped over to the green sponges for the same safety reasons as your unit. No real problems so far with them being too rough,( maybe be are harder us Northerners!). if the patients mouth is very sore we will use glycerine mouth swabs for comfort despite the expense. | | |
| 12 | Harrison Lianne (BFWH) <Lianne.Harrison@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk> | | Just a response to your question about oral care kits. At Blackpool we use the intersurgical day kits with the oroCare  suction brushes and suction wands which look a bit similar to the ones you are using at the moment. | | |
| 13 | Selwyn Rebecca (Critical Care) <Rebecca.Selwyn@nuh.nhs.uk> | | We currently use a paediatric tooth brush to brush teeth. If a patient without an ETT has their own adult sized brush we may use this instead.  To provide hydration care we utilise an enteral syringe to instil water into a patient's mouth and a yankeur to remove it if the patient can not swallow.  We have recently trialled an intersurgical product that had a tip on it similar to the moutheze sponges and also auctions at the same time, but these did not hold much water to provide hydration care or brush teeth effectively. We decided they would be an expensive addition to our mouth care range as we would still require the above two options.  I am aware of the Sage mouth care packs which have a foam sponge similar to the 'pink sponge' but have similar concerns as to whether the sponge would come off. The reps for these companies say the sponge will not come off as they are on a plastic stick rather than compressed cardboard as the old pink sponges were.  If it is possible to find out what the general consensus is, I'd be interested. | | |