

Educational Resource



User-applied labelling HNELHD: National standards

Sites where the resource can be utilised:

Hunter New England Local Health District

Target audience: Clinicians that utilise user-applied labelling

Aim of resource: To provide education to clinicians across HNELD on National Standards for User-applied labelling

Keywords: User-applied, medication, labels, syringe, fact sheet

Resource registration number:

Replaces existing resource? No

Related Legislation, Australian Standard, NSW Ministry of Health Policy Directive or Guideline, National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard (NSQHSS) and/or other, HNE Health Document, Professional Guideline, Code of Practice or Ethics:

- <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-labelling-and-packaging-of-medicines/user-applied-labelling/>
- http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2016/pdf/PD2016_058.pdf

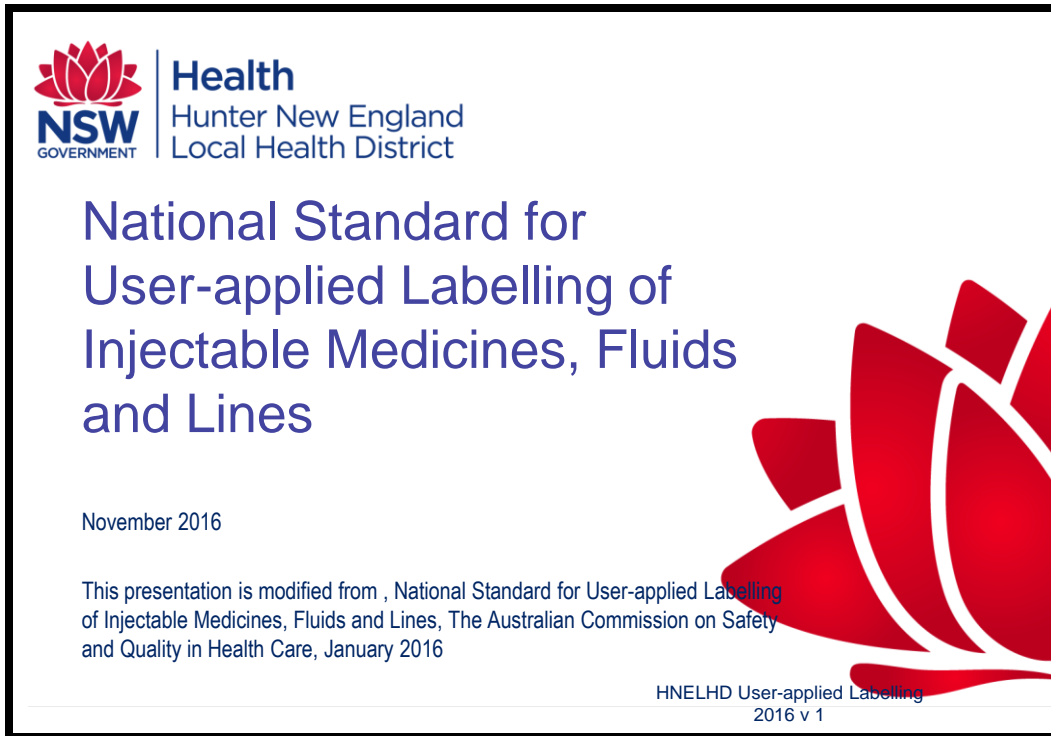
Is this package recorded in HETI? No

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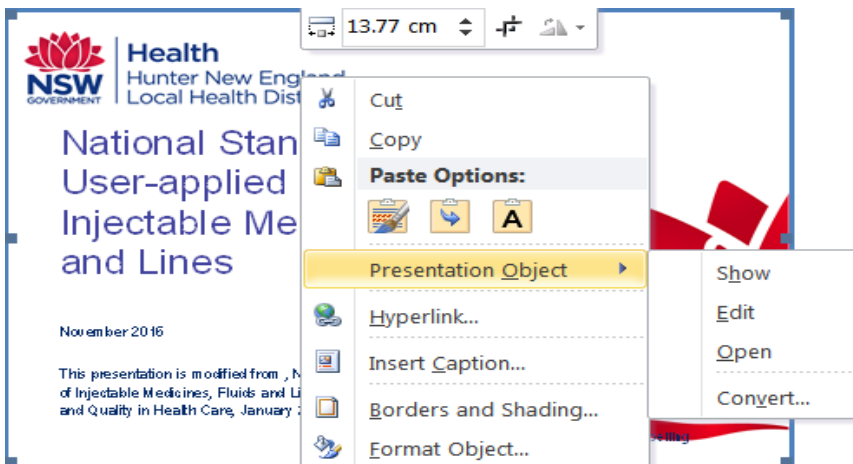
To view the PowerPoint presentation, double click on the image below and scroll down.



Double click on image above to view presentation

To print presentation

1. Right click on image, select “presentation object”, and then “open”.
2. The presentation will open in a format that is able to be printed.



User-applied labelling of Injectable medicines, fluids and lines Fact Sheet

Issued: November 2016

Injectable medicines are a high-risk therapy for patients and health professionals. It is reported that 25% of all medication incidents in acute care involve injectable medicines, but nearly 60% of medication errors that result in serious patient harm or death involve injectable medicines.

The 2015 revised National Standard for [User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines \(the Labelling Standard\)](#) guides clinical practice. The Labelling Standard sets out the requirements for label format, content and placement to:

- promote safer use of injectable medicines
- provide standardisation for user-applied labelling of injectable medicines
- provide minimum requirements for user-applied labelling of injectable medicines

Aims

The Labelling Standard is designed to reduce the risk of patient harm from injectable medicines by helping healthcare professionals identify the correct:

- injectable medicine or fluid (container)
- route of administration of the injectable medicine (conduit)
- patient for whom the medicine is intended

Labelling requirement

User-applied labelling is **required** for the following:

- Containers of injectable medicines and fluids (bags, bottles and syringes) in which the medicine can no longer be identified by its original packaging.
- Conduits (administration lines, invasive monitoring lines, catheters and burettes) that are used to deliver injectable medicines and fluids.
- Non-injectable fluids that can no longer be identified by their original packaging, including topical solutions, and oral and inhalational liquids.
- Syringes used to administer medicines via oral, enteral or inhalational routes.

Examples of correct labelling practice



The Labelling Standard **does not apply** to the labelling of:

- Injectable medicines and fluids prepared by hospital pharmacy departments and external manufacturers or compounding centres (e.g. cytotoxic preparations, premixed solutions, TPN and prefilled syringes).
- Injectable medicines and fluids that are not directly administered to the patient (e.g. ampoules, vials).
- Extemporaneously dispensed radiopharmaceuticals.
- Administration portals and syringe drivers and pumps.
- Preparation and administration of a SINGLE medicine prepared and administered by the same person in one uninterrupted process.
- Fluid bags and bottles for infusion where no additional medicines are added (e.g. sodium chloride 0.9% IV fluid, premixed infusions with potassium or heparin, and peritoneal dialysis fluids).
- Pulmonary artery catheters.

Closed-practice environments e.g. perioperative

In a closed-practice, there is a single patient whose identity is beyond doubt and the identity of the personnel responsible for preparing and checking the medicines is recorded. Here, both the [Anaesthetic Labelling Standard \(ISO 26825:2008\)](#) and the [Labelling Standard](#) apply to medicines drawn up into containers.

User-applied labelling of Injectable medicines, fluids and lines **Fact Sheet**

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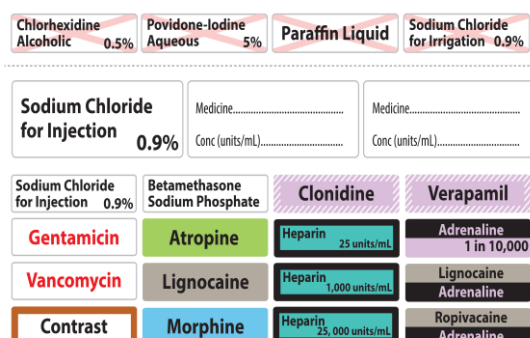
Both of these standards should be applied as follows:

- Use the Anaesthetic Labelling Standard (ISO 26825:2008) to identify medicines in syringes used for the purposes of anaesthesia.
- Use the Labelling Standard for all other medicine containers and lines in perioperative areas.
- Use container labels with full identification in all open-practice environments, including preparation and recovery areas.
- Use abbreviated container labels on perioperative sterile fields (closed-practice environments).

Containers - closed-practice environment

(e.g. perioperative sterile field)

Example preprinted abbreviated container labels*



- Use pre-printed labels or the 'peel off' abbreviated container label.
- Non-injectable medicines and fluids are identified with a red St Andrew's Cross watermark.
- Sterile markers must be made available when labels require population at point of use.

Ordering of labels

To order labels, the State-contracted supplier is to be used (The HNELHD User-applied Labels Guideline,

http://intranet.hne.health.nsw.gov.au/clinical_equipement_products_and_consumables/broadcast

For further information, please contact Clinical Products, HNELHD.

Resources

[National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines](#)

[Labelling Standard A3 Label Guide](#)

[National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines: Perioperative Labelling of Medicines and Fluids](#)

[National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines: Preprinted medicine line label guide](#)

[User-applied labels for syringes containing drugs used during anaesthesia: ISO 26825:2008](#)

[NSW Health PD 2016_058 User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines](#)

Additional resources are available at [Medication Safety intranet page](#) and educational resources about user-applied labelling are available at [Learning Resource Directory](#) and search User-applied Labelling