Percutanous haemodialysis catheters prematurely falling out

A renal unit reports that since the December 2009 they have had 9 percutaneous haemodialysis catheters fall out of 8 patients, with the majority occurring since January.

Some of these patients had underlying drugs or medical conditions that might have may increase the chances of this occurring but many did not. There were 4 different individuals who inserted these lines, one of whom is a consultant and all are experienced. Only 1 patient had their sutures removed after 9 days due to possible infection around the sutures, but this was the patient’s second line to fall out.

The supplier has said that has been no known change to the manufacturing process or factory producing the lines, though a formal response is awaited regarding this.

The renal unit has noticed that the cuff size has changed and is now much smaller, though the supplier has said that they are not aware of any changes having been made in the cuff size during the manufacturing process. Further discussions with the supplier will be held.

Action:

We would be grateful for information from any other units to whether similar experiences have occurred, and if so with which type and batch number of haemodialysis catheters. In addition we would welcome any observation to whether units think that the cuff size on haemodialysis catheters has changed.

Please submit comments, solutions, and personal experience to:

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