A further risk prone situation has been reported.

**Cracking of Luerlock mechanism of tunnelled haemodialysis catheters**

A renal unit reports an increased incidence of cracking of Luer lock mechanisms of haemodialysis catheters from the same manufacturer.

15 episodes of cracked Luer locks were identified over an 18 month period, reflecting approximately 18% of patients dialysing with catheters. The median time from catheter insertion to crack was 14 months (4-58 months). No cleaning solutions unsanctioned by the catheter manufacturer had been used. All locks were repaired by localised excision and replacement with a new Luer lock. No catheter required full replacement. No complications from the repair such as sepsis or secondary leak were observed.

There is a potential risk of blood leakage, entry of infection and air embolism from Luer lock cracking. Personal communication with two other units by the reporting unit indicates a similar, but less frequent occurrence of cracking with the same type of catheter. The manufacturer has been contacted by the unit but no specific advice has been received. Therefore it needs to be determined whether there is a specific problem with this particular catheter type.

**We would welcome sharing of experience to whether other units have had recent experience of increased occurrence of Luerlock cracking, and if so, with which type and manufacturer of haemodialysis catheters.**

**Please submit comments, solutions, and personal experience to:**

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