

Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care – 4 March 2024

Written question from Mr Richard Knowles of Carisbrooke to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care

In the years since the IW council started to commission a local service for the supply and return of medical sharps bins, many of the delivery systems used to administer medicines (particularly those used for type 1 diabetes) have become larger. As a consequence, the 1 litre sharps bins currently within the contract are no longer appropriate for around 1000 Island patients with type 1 diabetes who use this life changing technology.

Given that this number is likely to increase, how acceptable is it, that after over two years of communications between the relevant stakeholder organisations, for 5 litre sharps bins to be added to the service specification, there has apparently been no meaningful progress and that, as a consequence, Island patients are struggling to obtain the significantly larger numbers of the 1 litre bins that are now required to safely store and dispose of these larger medical sharps?

Response

Sharps boxes of a range of sizes have been collected for the last three years from Pharmacies on the island from the sharps take back scheme (see below for total box collection number 2020-2023). There are a limited number of pharmacies with the appropriate storage facilities to store 5 litre boxes they are how accepted at a number of facilities.

The council becomes responsible for sharps for self-treating patients when patients are not in receipt of care from a health care professional at home, it is very difficult to forecast the changing numbers of those requiring this sort of collection as medical advancements change rapidly.

The waste team have been ensuring the below numbers of sharps boxes from 1 to 5 litres are collected in pharmacies. However, given the changes to the size and shape of auto injectors, we are now looking to develop a pre-booked sharps collection services for larger sharps boxes. Given the cost to the authority, we are exploring the funding options, which may include a nominal fee,

Sharps Collections from Pharmacies 2022

<i>1LHazMunicCyto 200131</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>1LMunicSharps</i>	<i>10335</i>
<i>2L Haz MunicMeds</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>2LMunicSharps</i>	<i>146</i>
<i>4LMunicSharps</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>5LMunicSharps</i>	<i>83</i>

Sharps Collections from Pharmacies 2021

1LHazMunicCyto 200131	45
1LMunicSharps	11357
2L Haz Munic Meds	1
2LMunicSharps	219
4LMunicSharps	40
5LMunicSharps	45

Sharps Collections from Pharmacies 2020

1LMunicSharps	8375
2LMunicSharps	724
4LMunicSharps	18
5LMunicSharps	19