



### **Issue: Intravenous Cannulae**

*Raised by:* Various staff

*Background:* There are concerns that the intravenous cannulae type currently available through Top End Stores (Braun Introcan Safety I.V. Catheter) are blunt and difficult to use. Can the product be changed to the previously used product?

*Discussion:* The significance of having efficient intravenous cannula makes this area of concern important.

Random opinion from other Remote staff was canvassed and most clinicians have expressed satisfaction with the Introcan product. This seems to indicate that the staff who have raised concern may have used faulty technique when cannulating with the Introcan product or there may have been a batch of substandard product released. Of note some staff who initially flagged concerns have subsequently found the product more efficient, which points to a batch problem being the more likely cause. Braun have indicated they have not had concerns of this nature raised from other users.

It is now difficult to confirm batch numbers and investigate further any potentially substandard cannulae. If staff come across cannulae they consider are suboptimal, this should be flagged to the Professional Practice Nurses (PPNs) for follow-up.

Training materials (CD ROM and training booklet) from Braun, are available from the PPNs or Remote Educators if staff wish to use these to improve knowledge and technique with IV cannulation.

The Introcan product is currently on contract to DHF in Top End, following a comprehensive tender assessment. Being a contracted product, Remote Health is required to continue using the Introcan product unless a substantiated concern leads to formal review of the contracted arrangement. If clinical staff experience further concerns regarding the Introcan product, they should note the product batch number and discuss with the regional PPN, who can raise the issue for further investigation.

Note that another brand of intravenous cannula is on contract in Central Australia.

*Consultation:* Lynton Harry (RDH Stores), Shirley Freeman (ASH Stores) Jo Bird (Infection Control, Katherine District Hospital), Mardi Badcock (Braun rep).

*References:* Braun product information

*Outcome:* The contracted Introcan product remains the IV cannula for use in Top End Remote Health.

Any staff having difficulty with the product should raise this with the regional PPN.