

> **PRESS RELEASE / 29 March 2010**

Coloplast welcomes new environmental requirements

As of 21 March 2010 all medical device containing the phthalates DBD, BBP and DEHP must be labeled. The new EU directive coincides with the 10th anniversary of Coloplast's phthalate free catheter SpeediCath.

"There is no reason to expose users or the environment to a risk that can be avoided merely by thinking in new ways. This is the case with SpeediCath in which we have entirely avoided the usage of phthalates by substituting PVC with other materials", explains Peter Skals, environmental specialist at Coloplast.

Today, SpeediCath is one of Coloplast's bestselling products and it is sold in 33 countries. The global success is, however, not due to the product being phthalate free, but rather because it is easy and comfortable to use.

"In our experience, many customers are unaware that their catheter might contain phthalates and that these are problematic. Therefore, we hope that the new labeling requirement will raise awareness and thereby give catheter users a better chance of choosing products free of problematic phthalates", says Peter Skals.

Coloplast has offered the phthalate-free SpeediCath range since 2000. Today, the range covers five different variants, including SpeediCath Compact for women, which enables freedom and discretion through an innovative lipstick-like design. The product won the Danish Design Award in 2004.

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FACTS

What is the new EU directive on phthalate labelling about?

As of March 21 2010, all medical devices that contain classified phthalates must be factory labeled, either on the package or in the instruction for use. As it must be labeled at the factory, it can take a while before the labels reach the market. The label is a triangle with round corners in scripted with the letters PHT, and next to or beneath the triangle the specific phthalate is stated, e.g. DEHP.

What are phthalates?

Phthalates are chemicals used to soften the plastic material PVC, which is often used in the production of consumer products and medical devices. Experts suspect that the content of hormone disturbing chemicals can affect certain processes in our bodies, such as puberty and human reproduction.

Why the need to use a catheter?

There are many reasons why some people cannot urinate voluntarily and need to empty their bladder via a catheter. The nerve supply to your bladder may have been damaged; you may suffer from back problems or an enlarged prostate. Catheterisation may also be necessary after certain types of surgery, or it may be caused by a particular condition you were born with.

What is a catheter?

Intermittent catheters are fine hollow tubes inserted into the bladder to drain away urine. They come in different lengths and sizes for men, women and children. The most advanced catheters have a thin surface coating. When immersed in water this 'hydrophilic' coating swells to a smooth, slippery film making the catheter safer and more comfortable to insert.

What is SpeediCath?

The SpeediCath range represents the newest generation of intermittent catheters. Its 'hydrophilic' coating offers ease of use, greater comfort and minimal risk of urethral micro-trauma for all catheter users. The entire SpeediCath range is PVC-free and does not contain phthalates. The SpeediCath range consists of a number of innovative products, including SpeediCath Compact - a discrete catheter for women, and SpeediCath Control which provides extra control for men with impaired hand function.

The history of Coloplast's SpeediCath range

- 2000 SpeediCath - the first ready to use hydrophilic catheter
- 2003 SpeediCath Compact for women
- 2005 SpeediCath Complete
- 2009 SpeediCath Control for men
- 2010 SpeediCath Compact Plus