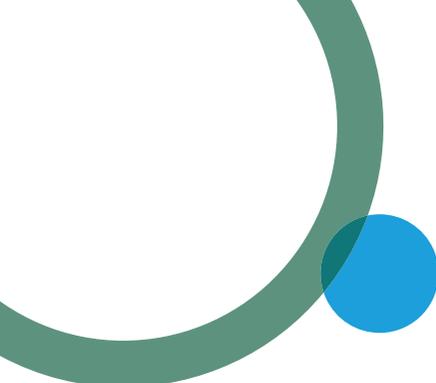


Re-thinking decontamination

**World
leading in
decontamination
practice**



**Health Facilities Scotland
Health Protection Scotland**



Partners involved in project
NHS Lothian
All health boards in Scotland

In 2011, tragedy struck NHS Wales following a heart operation on a patient. Whilst the surgery itself was successful, during the surgery it was found that one of the medical devices used was suspected to be contaminated. This sadly resulted in the patient's death from infection. In response, an urgent review was undertaken on behalf of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (ABM) health board in NHS Wales.

Subsequently, the Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) released a **Medical Device Alert** on the 28 June 2012. The MHRA recommended action for all healthcare professionals who use semi-invasive ultrasound probes.

In 2015 following the advice from the MHRA, a project team was established by **Health Facilities Scotland** and **Health Protection Scotland** (both part of NHS National Services Scotland). This team included a wide range of expertise from NHS boards and NSS. A literature review was carried out and disinfection systems and methods which were currently available were evaluated. A trial was then carried out in NHS health boards to **identify the benefits**, risks and issues that could arise from implementing new decontamination guidelines.

In March 2016 NSS published their decontamination guidance. This guidance has now been rolled out throughout NHSScotland. As a result, NHSScotland was the **first health service organisation to publish national guidance** on decontamination of semi-invasive probes.

Interested in finding out more? Contact nss.communications@nhs.net

