POLICY STATEMENT

N/A

PURPOSE
WDHS is based in an agricultural area that produces livestock. As part of livestock husbandry veterinary chemical are used. Occasionally needle stick injuries occur which may have poor outcomes if not treated correctly. To provide a table of livestock injection products and recommended treatment options.

Whilst due care has been taken with compiling this document it is not a complete list of all animal health products (vaccines, drenches, antibiotics and mineral supplements) that if accidentally self-administered have potential to cause injury.

No responsibility can be held by the authors for how this information is used and outcomes. Readers must independently verify recommendations contained in this document.

TARGET AUDIENCE/SCOPE
Emergency Department staff
VMO’s, HMO’s
Nursing staff if admitted

DEFINITION/S OF KEYWORDS
APVMA Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
NCFH National Centre for Farmer Health

CLINICAL ALERT
All animal health companies with products registered with the APVMA have a legislated requirement to report human exposure to their products to the APVMA but they can only do this, if notified of incidents. Please note that agriculture workers, farmers can and should report the adverse event to the APVMA and be encouraged to do so. They do not have to wait for the animal health company to do it. Similarly health and medical professionals can also report.

EQUIPMENT
Please keep a copy of the adverse report.

PROCEDURE/PROTOCOL/GUIDELINES
See appendix 1

CONSUMER INFORMATION
N/A

EXPECTED OUTCOME
Patients optimally treated first time for needle stick injuries.

EVALUATION
Annual review of needle stick cases to Emergency Department and whether they were treated appropriately undertaken by NCFH.

KEY ALIGNED DOCUMENTS
Not really.
**KEY LEGISLATION, ACTS and STANDARDS**

**REFERENCES TO BEST PRACTICE**

### Appendix 1

**Table of Livestock Injection Products**

**Farmer Needle Stick Injuries Risk & Recommended Treatment**

David Rendell\(^1\), Sue Brumby\(^2\), Richard Lunz\(^2\), Scott McCombe\(^2\), Stephen Clifforth\(^3\), Kelley Donham\(^4\) - updated 2016

Original version from NCFH - National Opening the Gates on Farmer Health Conference Oct 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Injection Product</th>
<th>Operator Exposure Risk</th>
<th>Recommended Treatment &amp; First Aid Guidelines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines that contain Mineral Oil (also known as Paraffin Oil) adjuvants</td>
<td>Mineral oil when injected into tissue is non-degradable and highly irritant</td>
<td><strong>Recommended Treatment following self-inoculation of Mineral Oil or Paraffin Oil Adjuvant Vaccines</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines include:</td>
<td>Accidental self-injection of these vaccines (1-8) can cause serious local reactions both short and long term.</td>
<td>First aid kit should be readily available, with eye bath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gudair (Sheep Johnes Disease)</td>
<td><strong>Note</strong> - refer to Mr Stephen Clifforth or onto nearest hospital /emergency service with information on vaccine type.</td>
<td><strong>Category 1 injury</strong> <em>(superficial skin exposure)</em>. Wash the contaminated area in warm soapy water. If vaccine material is splashed onto mucosal surfaces (e.g. eyes) there is greater risk and topical corticosteroids should be considered here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Silirium (Cattle Johnes Disease)</td>
<td>Emulsigen oil in water precise nature is not disclosed, is less irritant but can still cause serious local reactions.</td>
<td><strong>Category 2 injury</strong> <em>(needle-stick injuries without injection)</em>. Allow the wound to bleed freely and do not squeeze or interfere with the injection site. Clean the wound thoroughly with soap and water, and keep it clean and dry. Treat symptomatically (e.g., ensure appropriate tetanus cover; prescribe topical corticosteroids and oral antibiotics to prevent opportunistic infection).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pilliguard (Cattle Pink Eye)</td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> Elevation can increase pain intensity from spread of paraffin oil adjuvant due to gravity.</td>
<td><strong>Category 3 injury</strong> <em>(injection of vaccine material)</em>. Acute pain and inflammation is usually immediate, intense and persists for at least 24 hours. <strong>Perform early surgery</strong> and drainage to remove the oil-based vaccine material before it spreads or elicits a severe granulomatous reaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Roratvec Corona (Calf scour vaccines)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Category 4 injury</strong> <em>(Needle stick injury that has progressed to necrosis or granulomatous ulceration)</em>. Perform surgical debridement to remove any residual vaccine material. Skin grafting may ultimately be required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Vibrovax (Cattle Vibrio)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Bovillis MH &amp; MH/IBR vaccines (Cattle respiratory diseases)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Bovillis S (Cattle Salmonella)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Ovillis Campyvac (Sheep abortion)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**Note:** The adjuvant contained in vaccines 1-5 can be referred to as Freunds

**Note:** Vaccines 6 to 8 also contain mineral oil but is mixed with an “Emulsigen” oil in water
Livestock Injection Product | Operator Exposure Risk | Recommended Treatment & First Aid Guidelines
--- | --- | ---
Vegetable Oil Based Adjuvants | **Moderately irritant** | Accidental self-injection of these can cause local reactions depending on amount and location. **Note:** tendon sheaths more irritant<br>**Dectomax post injection slaughter study in cattle by Pfizer claim low tissue irritant. Industry experience shows vegetable oil adjuvants are much less reactive in animals than mineral oil or Paraffin oil adjuvant vaccine**<br>NZ farmer Excenel NSI case required extensive debridement and skin grafts see Ref<br>If possible the application of gentle squeezing pressure with absorbent material (e.g. facial tissue) at the injection site will swab up unabsorbed material. Strong squeezing of the site should be avoided. The damaged area should be thoroughly cleansed and a topical antiseptic applied.<br>Treat symptomatically (e.g. ensure appropriate tetanus cover; prescribe topical corticosteroids and oral antibiotics to prevent opportunistic infection).<br>Less likely to need surgical flushing or debridement but NZ case indicates need to review this<br>Medical grade “arachis” oil (peanut oil) too refined to cause peanut allergy
- Arrachis (peanut) cotton seed & sesame oil<br>- **Dectomax 70% sesame oil**
Injectable Drenches | |<br>**Moderately irritant**<br>**Note:** tendon sheaths more irritant<br>Dectomax post injection slaughter study in cattle by Pfizer claim low tissue irritant. Industry experience shows vegetable oil adjuvants are much less reactive in animals than mineral oil or Paraffin oil adjuvant vaccine<br>NZ farmer Excenel NSI case required extensive debridement and skin grafts see Ref<br>If possible the application of gentle squeezing pressure with absorbent material (e.g. facial tissue) at the injection site will swab up unabsorbed material. Strong squeezing of the site should be avoided. The damaged area should be thoroughly cleansed and a topical antiseptic applied.<br>Treat symptomatically (e.g. ensure appropriate tetanus cover; prescribe topical corticosteroids and oral antibiotics to prevent opportunistic infection).<br>Less likely to need surgical flushing or debridement but NZ case indicates need to review this<br>Medical grade “arachis” oil (peanut oil) too refined to cause peanut allergy
- Dectomax 70% sesame oil
Hormones | |<br>**Moderately irritant**<br>**Note:** tendon sheaths more irritant<br>Dectomax post injection slaughter study in cattle by Pfizer claim low tissue irritant. Industry experience shows vegetable oil adjuvants are much less reactive in animals than mineral oil or Paraffin oil adjuvant vaccine<br>NZ farmer Excenel NSI case required extensive debridement and skin grafts see Ref<br>If possible the application of gentle squeezing pressure with absorbent material (e.g. facial tissue) at the injection site will swab up unabsorbed material. Strong squeezing of the site should be avoided. The damaged area should be thoroughly cleansed and a topical antiseptic applied.<br>Treat symptomatically (e.g. ensure appropriate tetanus cover; prescribe topical corticosteroids and oral antibiotics to prevent opportunistic infection).<br>Less likely to need surgical flushing or debridement but NZ case indicates need to review this<br>Medical grade “arachis” oil (peanut oil) too refined to cause peanut allergy
- Testosterone e.g. Ropel, Tepro and Testoprop<br>- Progesterone oestradiol (Crestar)
Antibiotics | |<br>**Low irritant.** Adjuvant not specified and manufacturer only disclose confidentially to a Dr treating a case<br>Manufacturers claim similar risk to water based and Aluminium adjuvant vaccine see below *
- Moxylan<br>- Excenel

**Specific adjuvant not disclosed**<br>Vaccine: 1. Singvac 1 & 3 non-mineral double oil emulsified base?<br>2. Cydectin LA "Water miscible non-aqueous solution".<br<Drench<br>Eweguard, Weaner Guard...<br>Low irritant. Adjuvant not specified and manufacturer only disclose confidentially to a Dr treating a case<br>Manufacturers claim similar risk to water based and Aluminium adjuvant vaccine see below *

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Due for Review: <#next_review_date>
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<tr>
<td>Pestiguard, Eryvac, Ultravac. Botulinium water based Aluminium adjuvant vaccines</td>
<td><strong>Very low irritant.</strong> Risk of infection as with all livestock injections due to reuse of needles and working in a relatively dirty environment</td>
<td>As per normal needle stick infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solvent:</strong> Glycol solvent injections</td>
<td><strong>Less likely to be irritant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Symptomatic treatment as unlikely to need surgical flushing and debridement</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| E.g. Paramectin injection drench | **Injected** - Effects vary in severity according to the quantity e.g. localised site reaction (pain, redness, and swelling) to a more acute systemic reaction.  
**Skin** - Poisonous if absorbed through skin. May irritate the skin. | **Advice to Doctor** Poisoning by may cause neurological symptoms. Treat symptomatically. Require large dose~ 50 x dose safety margin |
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water based &amp; aluminium adjuvant vaccines</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low irritant</strong></td>
<td>Symptomatic treatment as most unlikely to need surgical flushing and debridement unless infection introduced at time of injection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep 5 in 1 &amp; 6 in 1 vaccine e.g. Glarvac, Ultravac, Tasvax</td>
<td>- Relatively low irritant adjuvant, main risk is opportunistic infection from needle contamination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle 5 in 1 and 7 in 1 vaccines e.g. Cattle vax ultravax</td>
<td>- Some risk of hypersensitivity from injection. Contains safety tested inactivated bacterial toxins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjuvant not specified</td>
<td>- Many contain ~0.05% formalin Category 2 carcinogen – but insufficient quantity to be risk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potentially Toxic: Hormones</strong></td>
<td>Self-Injection can induce premature labour</td>
<td>Not to be used by pregnant women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxytocin e.g. Syntocin</td>
<td>If self-injected or comes into contact with skin <strong>Causes abortion in pregnant women</strong>. May cause bronchospasm in humans. May cause peritonitis if have a pyometral condition with a stenosed cervix.</td>
<td>If possible the application of gentle squeezing pressure with absorbent material (e.g. facial tissue) at the injection site will swab up unabsorbed material. Strong squeezing of the site should be avoided. The damaged area should be thoroughly cleansed and a topical antiseptic applied. Seek immediate medical attention if self-inject</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Livestock Injection Product

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<tr>
<td>Ovastim sheep vaccine</td>
<td>Accidental self-injection may affect fertility in both women and men, and pregnancy. A mild transient swelling may occur at the injection site</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bopriva cattle vaccine</td>
<td>As Above do not use if of child bearing age or have had NSI with this product</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oestradiol /progesterone e.g. &quot;Crestar&quot; injection® (intervet)</td>
<td>Wide number of potential side effects and contradictions in people particularly those with depression</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotics with specific toxicity</td>
<td>Injection of Micotil 300 in humans has been associated with fatalities and cardiac arrest</td>
<td>In case of human injection, consult a doctor immediately and apply ice or cold pack to injection site while avoiding direct contact with the skin. Minimise movement and do not massage injection site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micotil</td>
<td>Caution Statement: Tilmicosin phosphate is classified as a severe allergen because repeated unprotected exposures are likely to cause allergic reactions. Effects of exposure may include changes in heart rate/rhythm and heart tissue changes.</td>
<td>Contact Poisons Information Centre on 13 1126.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilmicosin</td>
<td><strong>NOTE TO DOCTOR:</strong> The cardiovascular system is the target of toxicity and should be monitored closely. Cardiovascular toxicity may be due to calcium channel blockade. IV calcium reverses symptoms Epinephrine contraindicated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most animal medications including antibiotics (eg pencillins and oxytetratraclines) and anthelmitnts (worm treatment)</td>
<td>Possible allergic reaction. Whilst risk is highest if self-injected severe allergic dermatitis has been reported following skin exposure of minute traces. Risk of sensitisation with contact over time.</td>
<td>Persons with hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reaction must receive immediate medical attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Injection Product</td>
<td>Operator Exposure Risk</td>
<td>Recommended Treatment &amp; First Aid Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Live vaccine infectious to humans</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Scabby guard</td>
<td>Infectious to humans</td>
<td>Rinse area and apply disinfection procedures. Do not use brush or use abrasive material to wash as can cause skin trauma and assist virus entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin Irritation and very slow healing wound with crusty scab (Orf)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Vax safe Newcastle Disease vaccine for poultry</td>
<td><strong>Eye:</strong> Following direct exposure, individuals allergic to the milk-derived buffer may experience immediate irritation and inflammation. Newcastle disease virus infection in the operator can also occur from eye contact of inhalation of the vaccine but is rare and usually mild, causing moderate conjunctivitis with flu like symptoms developing up to 72 hours later.</td>
<td>Not available for general use. Requires Chief Veterinary Officer permit to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note Websters ND vaccine has no such warnings</td>
<td><strong>Skin:</strong> No evidence risk for humans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**
- **Group 1** – carcinogenic to humans
- **Group 2A** – probably carcinogenic to humans
- **Group 2B** – possibly carcinogenic to humans
- **Group 3** – not classifiable
- **Group 4** – probably not carcinogenic to humans

For more information - National Centre for Farmer Health  PH: 61 3 5551 8533  [www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)
Whilst due care has been taken with compiling this document it is not a complete list of all animal health products (vaccines, drenches, antibiotics and mineral supplements) that if accidentally self-administered have potential to cause injury.

No responsibility can be held by the authors for how this information is used and outcomes. Readers must independently verify recommendations contained in this document, as per below

Even for products assessed as being a low risk, if pain and swelling or other clinical signs develop after exposure to animal health products or any agricultural or veterinary chemical;

- seek immediate medical advice
- call the 1800 number on the product packaging and speak to the manufacturer
- Access the relevant MSDS (material safety data sheet) and it is safest to go direct to product manufacturer as most other websites including MIMS are up to 4 years out of date (Note MSDS vary in quality)
- Contact Poisons Information Centre on 13 1126 and ask for medical information for practitioners

**Adverse experiences must be reported.**

To report an unintended effect from the use of registered agricultural or veterinary chemicals

**CONTACT**

**Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority AVMPA.**

Free call: 1800 700 583 (within Australia) - charges apply for calls made from mobile phones
Fax: +61 2 6210 4776
Email: aerp@apvma.gov.au

All animal health companies with products registered with the APVMA have a legislated requirement to report human exposure to their products to the APVMA but they can only do this, if notified of incidents.

The following surgeons have had surgical experience with Category 3 and/or 4 Needle Stick Injuries involving Gudair
1. Mr. Stephen Clifforth, Glenelg Surgical Clinic Hamilton Vic (03) 5572 5233
2. Dr Gary Kode: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Launceston (03) 6334 9313
3. Dr Stephen Salerno, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Essendon, Victoria. T: (03) 9337 0032 (office) or (03) 9076 2000 (The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne)

References