

# Safety Memo

## DALTEPARIN and LATEX ALLERGY

### Latex containing device

#### Situation:

The SPCs for all Fragmin (Dalteparin) prefilled syringes have been updated to note that their needle shield may contain latex (natural rubber) which may cause severe allergic reactions in individuals with hypersensitivity to latex (natural rubber) [previously latex-free].

#### Background:

Fragmin (Dalteparin) prefilled syringes were previously latex-free.

#### Assessment:

All staff involved in the prescribing and administration of Dalteparin should be made aware of this change.

#### Recommendations:

- Prescribers should check the patient's allergy status for latex allergies when considering prescribing Dalteparin.
- Patients with a latex allergy should be prescribed an alternative product; Enoxaparin prefilled syringes do not contain latex.
- Patients should be informed of the potential latex content in the needle shield if family / friends are to administer Dalteparin to them and communicate this with their family / friends.
- Staff administering Dalteparin to patients should be aware of the potential latex content in the needle shield and check the patient's allergy status prior to administration.
- Staff with a latex allergy should wear gloves when administering Dalteparin, as per advice from Occupational health dept.

Further information can be found at [WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FRAGMIN \(medicines.org.uk\)](https://www.medicines.org.uk/what-you-should-know-about-fragmin) (pg 2, warnings and precautions).

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