

2023 FSRACA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

9–11 AUGUST 2023
CENTREPIECE AT
MELBOURNE PARK, VICTORIA

OUR TEAMS
KICKING GOALS

Pre-packed Pre-Sterilized Single Use Small Implants Policy

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Prior to 2008, screws, small plates and other small orthopaedic implants were repeatedly cleaned and sterilized by the local Central Decontamination Unit in racks or trays. Concerns have been raised that these implants cannot be properly cleaned, issues of corrosion and weakening caused by repeated processing and traceability. A small implant group, consisting of a range of multi-disciplinary health professionals, was established to investigate this matter and to provide recommendations to Scottish Executive.

In 2006 Chief Medical Officer in Scotland issued a letter (CMO 2006/13), The letter advised Chief Executives of the intention to move to a policy of using pre-packed sterile single-use small bone and other implants across NHSScotland, initially focusing on orthopaedics. Subsequently in 2007, Scottish Executive Health Department issued a follow-up letter, informing the deadlines for Orthopaedic units to achieve compliance, key issues and how to get practical help and advice. The key issues are finance, stock, procurement, storage, packaging, traceability, labelling, training and education.

In 2009 The Scottish Government instructed similar arrangements for implants used in the remaining specialties.

Fifteen years after the implementation of this policy, there have been no reported incidents related to failure of implant reprocessing, which means lesser risk to patients and greater confidence in patient safety.