

# Safety Action Notice

Reference: SAN2205

Issued: 05 July 2022

Review Date: 05 July 2023

## Recall of hygiene products associated with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection

### Summary

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* has been detected in some hygiene products manufactured by Vernacare. Vernacare issued a voluntary product recall on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to distributors of all 'in-date' cosmetic products which include wet wipes, washmitts, barrier cloths, bedbath washcloths and shampoo caps produced at its Lancashire facility. Products manufactured by Vernacare are sold under a range of product names (affected products detailed below). Withdrawal of the listed products is required due to a risk of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* transmission associated with their use in health and social care settings.

### Action

1. Bring this notice to the attention of all appropriate managers and staff in healthcare, social care and wider settings.
2. Remove affected products from the setting immediately and securely hold (see Equipment details section below for list of all affected products). Further information about held products will be issued by 2nd August 2022.

Actions to be commenced immediately and completed by **12 July 2022**.

### Equipment details

Details regarding the product recall including instructions on contacting Vernacare are provided on the Vernacare website which can be found via this [link](#). Information including product codes has also been published on GOV.UK by the Office for Product Safety and Standards and can be found via this [link](#). This Safety Action Notice follows National Distribution Centre notifying all NHS Scotland Health Boards of the product recall on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (**NDC Recall Notice PR341**). Wider settings may have received recall notice via other distribution networks.

The following product brands are subject to recall:

Product Name	Obsoleted codes	New/Current product codes
Oasis Shampoo Cap - Perfumed	RSC905, RSC965UP	SC01
Oasis Shampoo Cap - Unperfumed	RSC905UP, RSC965UP	SC01UP
Oasis Maceratable Bedbath - Perfumed	MBB05, MBB08, MBB10	BBM05, BBM08, BBM10
Oasis Maceratable Bedbath - Unperfumed	MBB05UP, MBB08UP, MBB10UP	BBM05UP, BBM08UP, BBM10UP
Oasis Washmitt - Perfumed	RSC604A	WM08
Oasis Washmitt - Unperfumed	RSC605A	WM08UP

Product Name	Obsoleted codes	New/Current product codes
Oasis Bedbath - Perfumed	RSC901, RSC901SE, RSC912, RSC901G	BB10, BB08
Oasis Bedbath - Unperfumed	RSC902N, RSC910N, RSC913NM, RSC913N	BB10UP, BB05UP, BB08UP
Conti Contenance Care Skin Cleansing Wipes	RSC555	CCC025
Conti Patient Cleansing Wet Wipes	RSC777	CW050P
Conti Flushable Skin Cleansing Wet Wipes	RSC767	NLM
Conti Patient Cleansing Wet Wipes	RSC774N	CW050
Conti Skin Cleansing Wet Wipes (previously Senset skin cleansing wipes)	900PW012, 900PW024, 900PW050	CWF024, CWF050, CWF050L
Conti Contenance Care 3% Dimethicone Barrier Cloth	RSC553	CBC025

## Background

*P. aeruginosa*, a Gram-negative bacterium, is often found in soil and water. It can cause a wide range of infections, particularly in people with a weakened immune system. It is associated with healthcare infections, particularly pneumonia and sepsis, and can be resistant to many commonly used antibiotics.

A large recent outbreak of *P. aeruginosa* ST3875 in Norway (Oct. 2021- Jun. 2022) has been associated with contaminated disposable wipes and comprised nearly 400 patients from 40 hospitals. Cases had a median age of 70 years and were from predominantly intensive care or vulnerable patient groups. 25% of cases had clinically severe infection. *P. aeruginosa* infection was considered by treating clinicians to be a contributing factor in the death of several cases.

These products have been available in health and care settings in Scotland. Links between the products and a number of cases and outbreaks in Scotland are currently being investigated. There is a need to raise awareness among health and care professionals who might encounter potentially associated cases. It is crucial to ensure relevant products are removed, including from health and care settings.

## Manufacturer contact details

Vernacare [Product.safety@vernagroup.com](mailto:Product.safety@vernagroup.com)

## Suggested onward distribution

These products have been supplied directly or via suppliers to a wide range of settings including healthcare (e.g. hospitals), care facilities (e.g. care homes), local authorities, pharmacies, and commercial premises. Products are also sold online.

Onward distribution should take account of this and all care settings using this product should be sent this Safety Action Notice.

## References

[Eurosurveillance | Pseudomonas aeruginosa countrywide outbreak in hospitals linked to pre-moistened non-sterile washcloths, Norway, October 2021 to April 2022](#)

## Enquiries

Enquiries and adverse incident reports should be addressed to:

**Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC)**

NHS National Services Scotland

Tel: 0131 275 7575 Email: [nss.irc@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.irc@nhs.scot)

**Accessibility:** Please contact us using the above details if you are blind or have a sight impairment and would like to request this alert in a more suitable format.

**IRIC remit:** general information about adverse incidents, safety alerts and IRIC's role can be found in [CEL 43 \(2009\)](#), *Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities*, issued 30 October 2009.

**Report an incident:** Information on [how to report an adverse incident](#)

NHS National Services Scotland is the common name for the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/>

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