



### Why move supplier?

The current national contract with Vernacare to supply all IEPs in Scotland has come to an end. A robust process was conducted to help identify any potential suppliers who are able to provide a full range of high quality injecting equipment and paraphernalia. This process included evaluation by expert groups including those with lived and living experience. We chose Orion Medical as the range of products they presented scored highest on quality and price.

### Do the Single Use Packs (1 Hit Kits) look any different and how do I know the contents?

These packs are white with the colour of writing colour coded to help identify needle size:

- White with black writing (1ml single use pack)
- White with orange writing (2ml orange single use pack)
- White with blue writing (2ml blue single use pack)

All packs will contain a needle and syringe, an alcohol swab, a spoon with filter and an acidifier. Each pack has a perforated side to all easy access to the contents.

### Do the syringes look any different?

All syringe barrels have three scratch-off symbols so you can mark them to reduce the risk of accidental sharing.

### What else has changed?

**Acidifiers** – All packs will now contain Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) as an acidifier.



There is evidence to show that using too much citric acid to dissolve drugs for injection causes vein and site damage. Vitamin C does not create as much acidity but you do need to use a bit more to help break down heroin or crack/freebase cocaine. To help with this there is more in each sachet (Vit C 300mgs Vs Citric 100mg). It may take a little time to get used to but rest assured it will be causing less harm.

**Spoons** – The new steel spoons, although more compact, are still able to hold 2ml of fluid (more than enough for preparing drugs for injection). The spoons require no assembling and are made from high quality stainless steel. There is a folding handle and stability foot for extra safety and stability.



**Sharps bins** – the new 0.35L and 0.6L bins are slightly different in shape. This shape has been designed to help stability and reduce the chance of the bin being accidentally knocked over. The locking mechanism is a little different but still allows partial and full closure. These bins replace the 0.3L and 0.45L.

**Water for injection** – these will be provided as 5ml plastic ampoules, available as loose items to be offered with all needles, syringes and single use packs.