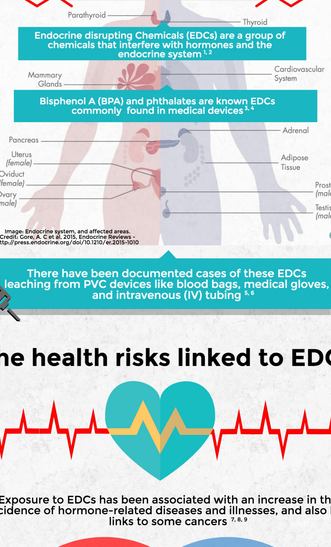
Non toxic healthcare

reducing risks with safer alternatives



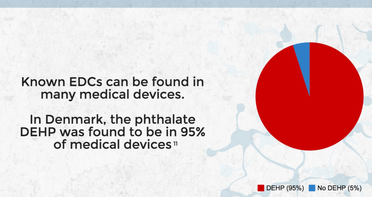
There have been documented cases of these EDCs leaching from PVC devices like blood bags, medical gloves, and intravenous (IV) tubing 5, 6

The health risks linked to EDCs

Exposure to EDCs has been associated with an increase in the incidence of hormone-related diseases and illnesses, and also has links to some cancers 7, 8, 9

Who's at risk?

The most at risk from the effects of EDCs are often already vulnerable, as they are using the medical devices from which EDCs can leach



This includes pregnant and nursing women, newborns, young children, and the elderly 10

Where are EDCs found?

In healthcare

MEDICAL TEXTILES
Phthalates (plasticizers)
Polybrominated Biphenyl Ethers (flame retardants)

CLEANING PRODUCTS
Glycol Ethers (surfactant)
Cyclosiloxanes (spreading agent)
Ethanolamines (emulsifier)

FLOORING
PVC

INTRAVENOUS TUBING & BAGS
Phthalates (plasticizers)

MEDICAL DEVICES
Phthalates, BPA (plasticisers)

MEDICAL GLOVES
Phthalates (plasticisers)

In the home

AIR FRESHENERS
Phthalates (solvents)

FURNITURE
Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (flame retardants)
PCDBs

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS
Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (flame retardants)

WOOD TREATMENT PRODUCTS
Phthalates (solvents)

FLOOR COVERINGS
Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers PCDBs (flame retardants)

Known EDCs can be found in many medical devices.

In Denmark, the phthalate DEHP was found to be in 95% of medical devices 11

Success stories and alternatives

HOSPITAL OF SOUTHERN JUTLAND PAEDIATRICS & NEONATOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Began phasing out PVC products in 2005 12

KAROLINSKA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NEONATAL UNIT

Completely phased out PVC in 2014 12

WESTFRIESGASTHUIS HOSPITAL PAEDIATRICS DEPARTMENT

Substituted 80-100% of PVC devices 12

Alternatives were initially 2.5 - 3 times more expensive, but now there is no difference in price, quality, or applicability 9, 12

For more information on EDC-free medical devices, visit the database

www.safermedicaldevices.org

or for more case studies and further reading, read the full report:

www.noharm-europe.org/edcs-report

Healthcare Without Harm is a non-profit coalition of hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions, and environmental and health organisations. They bring the voices of healthcare professionals to the European policy debate about key issues - chemicals, climate change and health, green building, sustainable procurement, pharmaceuticals, sustainable food and waste management.

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