NHSGGC Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines	
Guidance Section 16	
Defective Medicines	
Approved by: ADTC Safer Use of Medicines Committee	March 25
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16.1 Official notification of a defective medicine and / or recall is usually issued as a Drug Alert from the Scottish Government or the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) or the manufacturer / supplier. For further information on product recalls / alerts please consult the NHSGGC Medicine Recall and Alert Procedure, available here (located on ggc.medicines.org site).

16.2 The Sector Chief Technicians and / or Lead Clinical Pharmacists or other senior pharmacists must ensure that there are systems in place to check if the defective medicine has been issued for use within any clinical area, and to facilitate withdrawal from use (if appropriate), in conjunction with ward / departmental staff, within the required timescale for action.

16.3 If any member of staff has reason to believe that a medicine is defective, he or she must follow the guidance set out the NHSGGC Suspected Medicines Defect Policy (available here- located on ggc.medicines.org site).

16.4 If a member of pharmacy staff, after receiving medicines from a supplier or returned from a clinical area, suspects a package has been tampered with he / she should secure the medicines in question in a sealed container, marked “Do Not Use”, and inform the Sector Chief Technicians and / or Lead Clinical Pharmacists (or delegated deputy) immediately. If at time of delivery a member of pharmacy staff suspects a package has been tampered with then he / she should refuse to accept it from the supplier.