

Did you know?

Extravasation

Extravasation is the accidental leakage of any liquid from a vein into the surrounding tissues, which can cause serious harm to the patient



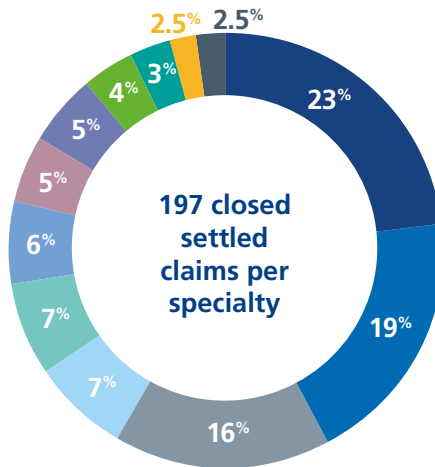
Did you know?

From 1 April 2011 until 31 March 2021 NHS Resolution received **444** claims relating to extravasation injuries

Of those **444** claims, **138** remain open, **197** have settled with damages paid and **109** have closed with nil damages. This has cost the National Health Service (NHS) **15.6 million pounds**. This includes payment for claimant legal costs, NHS legal costs and damages.

Key facts

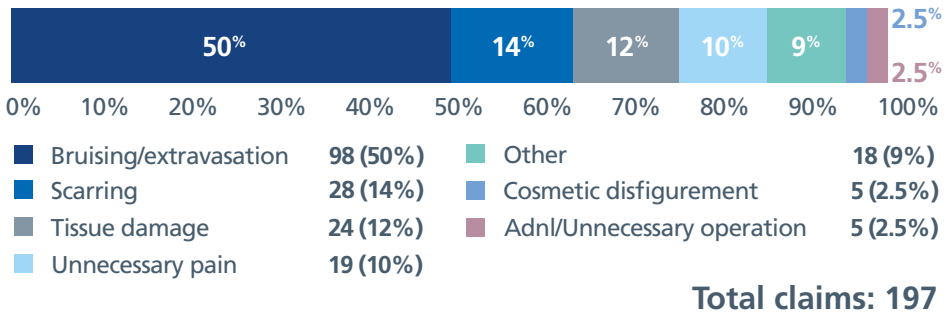
Closed claims settled with damages paid per specialty



■ Paediatrics	45 (23%)	■ Anaesthesia	10 (5%)
■ Oncology	38 (19%)	■ Radiology	10 (5%)
■ Other	32 (16%)	■ Intensive care medicine	7 (4%)
■ Obstetrics	14 (7%)	■ General surgery	6 (3%)
■ General medicine	14 (7%)	■ Haematology	5 (2.5%)
■ Emergency medicine	11 (6%)	■ Plastic surgery	5 (2.5%)

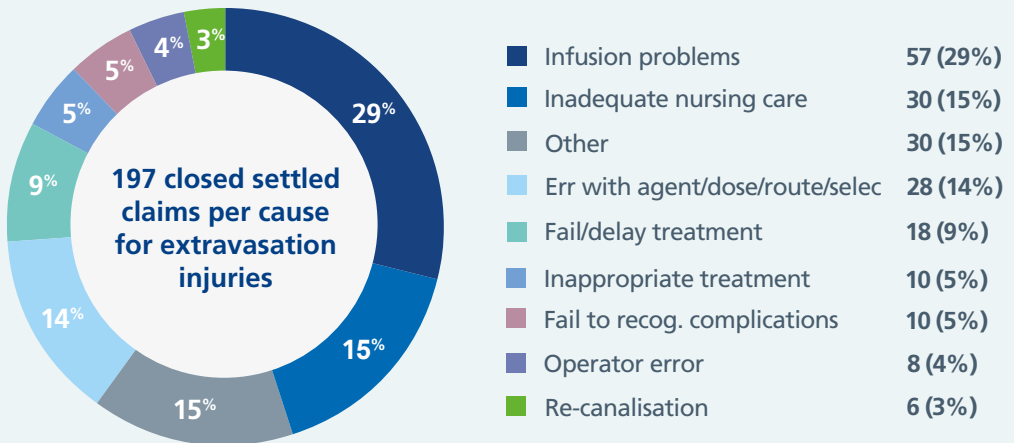
Other contains all specialties with fewer than five claims such as gastroenterology, cardiology, blood transfusion, radiotherapy, orthopaedic surgery, neurology, gynaecology, respiratory medicine, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, rehabilitation and urology.

Closed claims settled with damages paid per injury caused by extravasation



Other contains less common injuries which occurred in categories with fewer than five claims such as burns, fatalities, limb deformity, nerve damage, arterial damage, swelling, compartment syndrome, multiple injuries, joint damage and cardiac arrest.

Closed claims settled with damages paid per cause of extravasation injuries

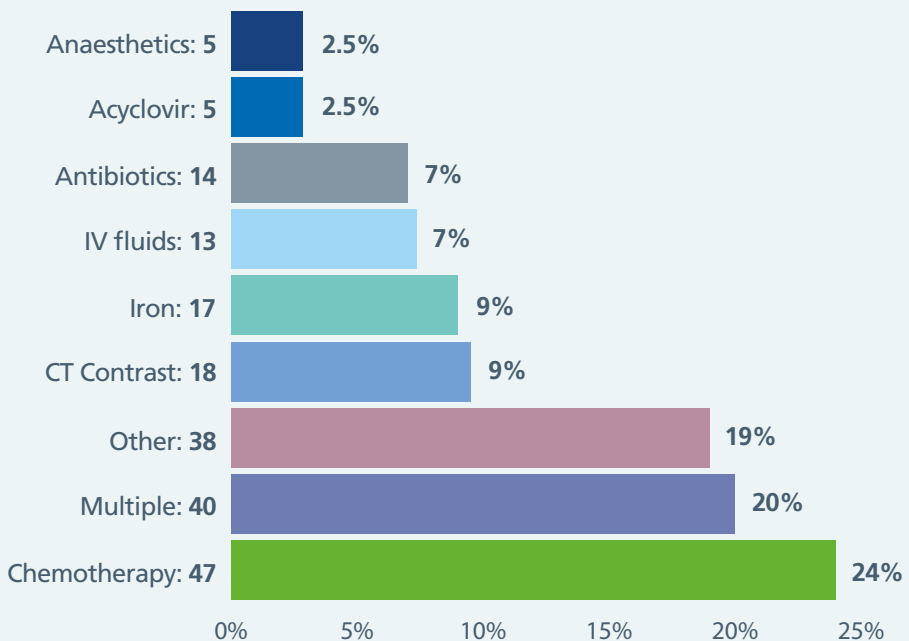


Other contains less common causes which occurred in areas with fewer than five claims such as equipment malfunction, inadequate intra-operative monitoring, incorrect injection site, fail/delay diagnosis, lack of assistance/care, medication errors, wrong route administration of chemotherapy, intra-operative problems and fail to warn-informed consent.

Thematic analysis found other contributory factors to include:

- Incorrect medication infusion pump pressures
- Bandaging the cannula in infants, hindering access and observations
- Wrong route of administration
- Failure to act on patient's complaint of pain or discomfort
- Delay in recognising extravasation injury
- Staff not following manufacturer's or local guidance on administration of intravenous drugs.

Number of settled claims closed with the payment of damages by drug type



Total claims: 197

Other contains amalgamated claims where there were fewer than five claims per medication type.

Did you know? Intravenous iron can cause permanent staining of the patient's skin and/or anaphylaxis? Ensure patients receive all relevant literature to enable an effective consent process prior to the infusion running.

Did you know? The most common site for extravasation injuries in children is the foot? Patient movement, bandaging of the cannula and inadvertent parental obstruction (parental bed position/ holding position of child) are contributing factors.

Did you know? Extravasation from cytotoxic drugs can take several hours or days to develop? Extravasation is not always apparent at an early stage. Greater consideration for the likelihood of extravasation injury should be given in cases where there have been multiple attempts at placing a needle or if the route of vascular access was incorrect.

Did you know? Extravasation of radiological contrast is much more common for CT compared to MRI? Placement of the cannula outside of the radiology department and arm positioning during the imaging are contributory factors to this.

What can you do?

- Ensure your local guidance for management of extravasation injuries is circulated amongst staff.
- Ongoing education to ensure front line clinicians are aware of the risk of extravasation and how to recognise, treat and escalate extravasation injuries.
- Review your organisation's reporting procedure, incidents and claims for extravasation injuries and ensure learning is shared with all relevant staff.
- Review patient information resources to include manufacturer's guidance, evidence based practises and patient support organisations.

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