

Press Release

Vanguard advocates high quality requirement for reprocessing – Statement in response to just published SCENIHR Report

Berlin, 23 April, 2010 – On 20 April the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) published its opinion on possible hazards involved in the reprocessing of medical devices.

VANGUARD AG welcomes the step taken by the European Commission to examine the issue of whether a regulatory framework for the reprocessing of complex medical devices is required at the EU level.

The SCENIHR Report is an important contribution for the development of a position to be taken by the Commission in this question.

Vanguard AG is the market leader in the German reprocessing industry. By applying strict selection criteria, highly advanced technical methods and a corresponding risk management system, Vanguard is well capable of controlling the hazards referred to in the report. The processes are thus in compliance with the joint recommendation published by the Robert Koch Institute and the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices.

The 2008 Progress Report by the Federal Ministry of Health concerning the reprocessing of medical devices in Germany has confirmed that the use of professionally reprocessed so-called single-use devices (SUDs) presents no increased risk for patient and/or users. Furthermore, the Ministry has come to the conclusion that to prohibit the reprocessing of SUDs is not expedient.

VANGUARD AG is assuming that the findings stated in the Federal Ministry of Health Progress Report as well as those of existing studies on the safety of reprocessing are also being incorporated into the European Commission report.

VANGUARD AG has committed itself to a responsible and sustainable treatment of valuable resources, so that in the long run it can be ensured that all patients are treated with advanced medical devices.

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