

**June 2007**

## **BHS Statement on the use of Mercury Sphygmomanometers in clinical practice**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) set up a Committee on Blood Pressure Monitoring in Clinical Practice whose remit was "To evaluate whether mercury sphygmomanometers should continue to be used or removed from the clinical environment: and to consider the alternative to mercury devices and the evidence regarding their accuracy" The Committee filed its report in June 2005. [Click here](#) to see the full report and recommendations

There has been no further guidance from the government in terms of a date for the removal of mercury from the clinical environment and until such guidance is forthcoming, mercury sphygmomanometers are still acceptable for use in clinical practice.

Where automatic blood pressure monitors are bought in to replace mercury sphygmomanometers, the BHS strongly recommends that only validated devices are purchased. The BHS maintains an impartial list of such devices which is updated regularly. [Click here](#) to access the index page.