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## Medical devices laws to get EU health check

Laws governing medical devices are to undergo review the European Commission announced today. The plans will affect a huge range of products: from contact lenses to pacemakers, pregnancy test kits to high-tech medical equipment.

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) welcomes the intention to improve post-marketing monitoring, but regrets that the plans fall short of increasing quality and safety standards before these products reach consumers.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, commented:

“High risk devices, such as hip implants, need much more thorough controls before being put on the market.

“It is unacceptable that consumers are afforded different protection levels depending whether they have an artificial heart valve or take medicine for diabetes. If there is a problem with the medicine, a patient simply stops taking it, if an implanted device is problematic patients must undergo invasive and risky surgery to have it removed.

“The revision of the EU legislation on medical devices is a unique opportunity to increase consumer protection, reduce risk and avoid costly recalls. The guidelines for EU lawmakers should be ‘no access without safety’.

“Consumers must be given more and better information on medical devices while having the backup of redress if things go wrong such as in the case of the PIP breast implants scandal.”

ENDS

Watch [this](#) video of accounts by victims of defective, implanted medical devices.