

DANGEROUS MISPERCEPTIONS

Here are some examples of dangerous misperceptions about safe injection practices.



Myth

Changing the needle makes a syringe safe for reuse.

Syringes can be reused as long as an injection is administered through IV tubing.

If you don't see blood in the IV tubing or syringe, it means that those supplies are safe for reuse.

It's okay to use leftover medicine from use single-dose or single-use vials for more than one patient.

Truth

Once they are used, both the needle and syringe are contaminated and must be discarded. A new sterile needle and a new sterile syringe should be used for each injection and each entry into a medication vial.

Syringes and needles should never be reused. The IV tubing, syringe, and other components represent a single, interconnected unit. Distance from the patient, gravity, or infusion pressure do not ensure that small amounts of blood won't contaminate the syringe once it has been connected to the unit.

Germs such as hepatitis C virus and staph or MRSA are invisible to the naked eye, but can easily infect patients even when present in microscopic quantities. Do not reuse syringes, needles, or IV tubing.

Single-dose or single-use vials should not be used for more than one patient regardless of how much medicine is remaining.

Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility!

The *One & Only Campaign* is a public health effort to eliminate unsafe medical injections. To learn more about safe injection practices, please visit OneandOnlyCampaign.org.

For the latest news and updates, follow us on Twitter @injectionsafety and Facebook/OneandOnlyCampaign.




THE IMPACT OF UNSAFE MEDICAL INJECTIONS IN THE U.S.

Unsafe Injection Practices Have Devastating Consequences¹

Syringe reuse and misuse of medication vials have resulted in dozens of outbreaks and **THE NEED TO ALERT MORE THAN 150,000 PATIENTS...**

...to seek testing for bloodborne pathogens such as **HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV,²** and have led to...

 Patient illness and death

 Legal charges/malpractice suits

 Loss of clinician licenses

 Criminal charges

In just one clinic, syringe reuse to access medication vials for multiple patients resulted in an outbreak and one of the largest public health alerts in U.S. history.



50,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO INFECTION



Outbreaks Occur in a Variety of Settings

Steps Every Healthcare Provider Should Take



- Hospitals
- Primary care clinics
- Pediatric offices
- Outpatient surgical centers
- Pain clinics
- Imaging facilities
- Oncology clinics
- Dental clinics
- Health fairs



Follow proper infection control practices and maintain aseptic technique during the preparation and administration of injected medications (e.g., perform hand hygiene).



Never administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed.



Never enter a vial with a used syringe or needle.



Do not use medications packaged as single-dose or single-use for more than one patient.



Do not use bags of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for more than one patient.



Limit the use of multi-dose vials and dedicate them to a single patient whenever possible.



Always use facemasks when injecting material or inserting a catheter into the epidural or subdural space.



Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility



The Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) is a partnership of healthcare-related organizations led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The SIPC developed the *One & Only Campaign*—a public health effort to eliminate unsafe medical injections by raising awareness of safe injection practices. For a list of SIPC Partners, more information about the Campaign, and to view additional resources including videos and other materials, please visit OneandOnlyCampaign.org



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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (August 24, 2012). Injection Safety Information for Providers. In CDC.gov. Retrieved October 10 2012, from <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers.html>.
- 2 Guh, Alice Y. MD, MPH; Thompson, Nicola D. PhD; Schaefer, Melissa K. MD; Patel, Priti R. MD, MPH; Perz, Joseph F. DrPH. Patient Notification for Bloodborne Pathogen Testing due to Unsafe Injection Practices in the US Health Care Settings, 2001-2011. Medical Care Journal, May 2012.



INJECTION SAFETY CHECKLIST

The following Injection Safety checklist items are a subset of items that can be found in the *CDC Infection Prevention Checklist for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care*.

The checklist, which is appropriate for both inpatient and outpatient settings, should be used to systematically assess adherence of healthcare providers to safe injection practices. Assessment of adherence should be conducted by direct observation of healthcare personnel during the performance of their duties.

Injection Safety	Practice Performed?	If answer is No, document plan for remediation
Proper hand hygiene, using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water, is performed prior to preparing and administering medications.	Yes No	
Injections are prepared using aseptic technique in a clean area free from contamination or contact with blood, body fluids, or contaminated equipment.	Yes No	
Needles and syringes are used for only one patient (this includes manufactured prefilled syringes and cartridge devices such as insulin pens).	Yes No	
The rubber septum on a medication vial is disinfected with alcohol prior to piercing.	Yes No	
Medication vials are entered with a new needle and a new syringe, even when obtaining additional doses for the same patient.	Yes No	
Single-dose or single-use medication vials, ampules, and bags or bottles of intravenous solution are used for only one patient.	Yes No	
Medication administration tubing and connectors are used for only one patient.	Yes No	
Multi-dose vials are dated by healthcare when they are first opened and discarded within 28 days unless the manufacturer specifies a different (shorter or longer) date for that opened vial. Note: This is different from the expiration date printed on the vial.	Yes No	
Multi-dose vials are dedicated to individual patients whenever possible.	Yes No	
Multi-dose vials to be used for more than one patient are kept in a centralized medication area and do not enter the immediate patient treatment area (e.g., operating room, patient room/cubicle). Note: If multi-dose vials enter the immediate patient treatment area, they should be dedicated for single-patient use and discarded immediately after use.	Yes No	

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Safe injection practices are not optional.

They are a basic expectation anywhere injections are administered. It may be hard to believe, but over the last decade, syringe reuse and misuse of medication vials have resulted in dozens of outbreaks and the need to alert over 150,000 patients to seek testing for bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, and HIV.

Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility



About the Safe Injection Practices Coalition

The Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) is a partnership of healthcare-related organizations led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that was formed to promote safe injection practices in all U.S. healthcare settings. The SIPC has developed the One & Only Campaign – a public health education and awareness campaign – aimed at both healthcare providers and patients to advance and promote safe injection practices.

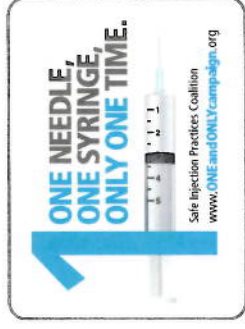
For a list of SIPC partners, for more information about the campaign and to view additional resources, including videos and other materials, please visit:

www.OneandOnlycampaign.org



INJECTION SAFETY

What Every Healthcare Provider Needs to Know



Injection safety guidelines from CDC

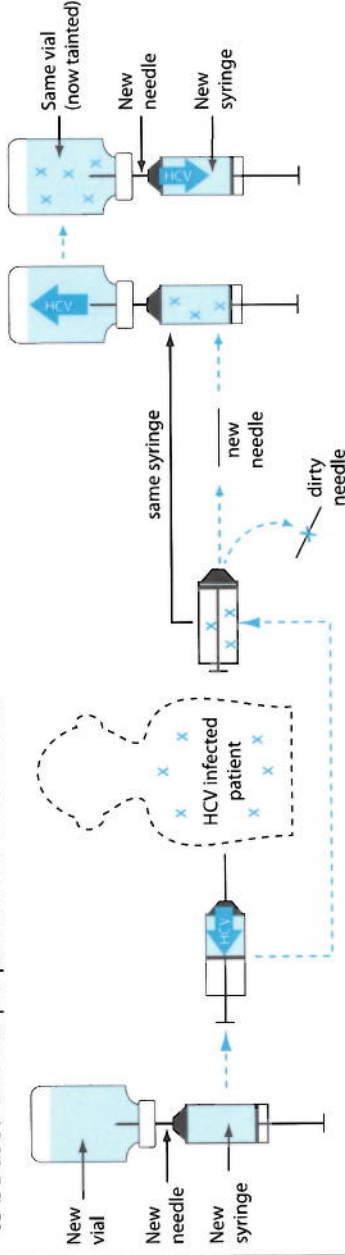
- Never administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed.
- After a syringe or needle has been used to enter or connect to a patient's IV it is contaminated and should not be used on another patient or to enter a medication vial.
- Never enter a vial with a used syringe or needle.
- Do not use medications packaged as single-dose vials for more than one patient.
- Assign medications packaged as multi-dose vials to a single patient whenever possible.
- Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for more than one patient.
- Follow proper infection control practices during the preparation and administration of injected medications.
- Wear a surgical mask when placing a catheter or injecting material into the spinal canal or subdural space.



Adapted from: Guideline for isolation precautions: preventing transmission of infectious agents in health care settings 2007. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2007. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/isolation2007.pdf>

Unsafe Injection Practices and Disease Transmission

Reuse of syringes can transmit infectious diseases such as Hepatitis C virus (HCV). The syringe does not have to be used on multiple patients for this to occur.



1. New needle and syringe are used to draw medication.
2. When used on an HCV-infected patient, backflow from the injection contaminates the syringe. Changing the needle does not prevent contamination of the syringe.
3. When reused to obtain medication, the contaminated syringe contaminates the medication vial.
4. If the contaminated vial is used for other patients, they can become infected with HCV.

Adapted from MMWR (May 16, 2008 / 57(19):513-517)

Three things every provider needs to know about injection safety

1. Needles and syringes are single use devices. They should not be used for more than one patient or reused to draw up additional medication.
2. Do not administer medications from a single-dose vial or IV bag to multiple patients.
3. Limit the use of multi-dose vials and dedicate them to a single patient whenever possible.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_faqs.html

How can healthcare providers ensure that injections are performed correctly?

Healthcare providers can review medication preparation and administration procedures with staff and colleagues to ensure that safe practices are understood and followed by all.



Remember:
ONE Needle,
ONE Syringe,
ONLY ONE Time.