



## WHAT ARE SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES?

Safe injection practices are recommendations within [Standard Precautions](#) for patient care intended to ensure injections are performed in a safe manner for patients and health care personnel (HCP). Unsafe injection practices may result in serious consequences like the transmission of bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as well as outbreaks of bacterial or fungal diseases. A good rule to remember is ***One Needle, One Syringe, only One Time.***



## ALWAYS

- **Always** use aseptic technique, including hand hygiene and a clean workspace, when preparing and administering injections to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment.
- **Always** use a new sterile syringe and needle for each patient. Once used, the syringe and needle are both contaminated and must be discarded.
- **Always** discard the needle and syringe in a sharps disposal container immediately after use.
- **Always** use facemasks when injecting material or inserting a catheter into the spinal canal or subdural space.

## NEVER

- **Never** reuse needles or syringes even if retrieving more doses for the same patient.
- **Never** administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed or you are injecting through an intervening length of IV tubing.
- **Never** access a medication vial, bag, or bottle with a syringe or needle used on another patient.
- **Never** use medications intended for single use in more than one patient. This includes single-dose vials, ampoules, and bags and bottles of intravenous solutions.
- **Never** use insulin pens and other injection equipment containing multiple doses of medication on more than one patient.

## STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE INJECTION/SHARPS SAFETY

- Implement engineering controls for preventing sharps injuries including needleless IV systems, self-sheathing needles, blunt suture needles, safety syringes, and rigid sharps disposal containers.
- Ensure all HCP receive education and training in safe injection practices.
- Establish a “culture of safety” with a shared commitment to injury prevention, reporting systems, and regular safety training to greatly reduce the risk of sharps injuries.
- Develop written infection control policies and procedures that include safe injection practices.
- Conduct quality assurance assessments.
- Ensure the availability of appropriate safety devices and personal protective equipment.

More information about safe injection practices can be found [here](#).