

	<p>POLICIES & PROCEDURES</p> <p>Number: 20-101</p> <p>Title: Safe Injection Practices</p>
<p>Authorization: [4] SHR Regional Infection Prevention & Control Executive Committee</p>	<p>Source: Infection Prevention & Control Date Initiated: November, 2008 Date Reaffirmed: Date Revised: Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates</p>

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Introduction

Injection safety, or safe injection practices, is a set of measures taken to perform injections in an optimally safe manner for clients, healthcare personnel, and others.

Reuse of syringes is a significant breach of aseptic technique which can lead to cross contamination and the potential transmission of blood borne infections. Needles, cannulae and syringes are sterile, single-use items; they should not be reused for another client or reused to access a medication or solution that might be used for a subsequent client.

Policy

1. Syringes shall be single-use or single-client use. Do not administer medications from a syringe to multiple clients, even if the needles or cannulae on the syringe is changed. **Note:** Exception - Multidosing System for Contrast Infusion in Medical Imaging – See procedure in Medical Imaging.¹
2. Prefilled syringes shall be single-use or single-client use.
3. A new, sterile syringe and needle/cannula shall be used for each client when accessing intravenous tubing, stop cocks or access ports.
4. Fluid infusion and administration sets (i.e., intravenous bags, tubing and connectors) shall be used for one client only and disposed appropriately after use.
5. Bags or bottles of intravenous solution shall not be used as a common source of supply for multiple clients.
6. Single-dose vials for parenteral medications shall be used whenever possible.
7. Medications from single-dose vials or ampoules shall not be administered to multiple clients or leftover contents combined for later use.
8. If multidose vials must be used, both the needle/cannula and syringe used to access the multidose vial must be sterile.
9. Multidose vials should not be kept in the immediate client treatment area and will be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations; discard the vial if sterility is compromised or questionable. In situations where multidose vials must be kept in the

¹ Health Canada Communicable Disease Report Volume 22-4 February 15, 1996

immediate client treatment area, they shall be kept secure to prevent tampering (either stored out of sight or supervised by a staff member) and care shall be taken to ensure aseptic access of the vial.

Purpose

1. To prevent transmission of infectious diseases (i.e., human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B (HBV), and hepatitis C (HCV)).

Procedure

1. Use strict aseptic technique when administering injectable medication.
2. If multidose vials are used,
 - Record the date the vial was first opened.
 - Refrigerate vials after opening as recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Clean the rubber diaphragm of the vial with alcohol before inserting a device into the vial.
 - Discard the vial when suspected or visible contamination occurs, one month after initial vial entry, when the vial has been entered and no "date opened" is apparent or when the manufacturer's expiration date is reached.
 - Never leave a needle in the septum of the vial, as this may encourage reuse of the syringe.
3. Store sterile supplies (syringes, needles, medications, IV delivery systems) in a clean area and in a manner which prevents contamination.

References

1. CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, 2007.