

CDC Injection Safety Recommendations

From the CDC Guidelines for isolation precautions: Preventing transmission of infectious agents in healthcare settings, 2007. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2007.



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



CONSIDER a syringe or needle contaminated after it has been used to enter or connect to a patient's intravenous infusion bag or administration set.



DO NOT enter a vial with a used syringe or needle.



NEVER use medications packaged as single-use vials for more than one patient.



ASSIGN medications packaged as multi-use 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.

Additional Resources

- New CDC patient safety website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/patientsafety.html>
- Diagram of unsafe injection practices and disease transmission at http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/outbreaks/download/syringe-graphics_color.pdf
- Presentation entitled "A Never Event: Unsafe Injection Practices," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/UnsafeInjectionPractices032708.ppt>
- CDC recommendations for preventing transmission of infections among chronic hemodialysis patients at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5005a1.htm>
- Infection control requirements for dialysis facilities and clarification regarding guidance on parenteral medication vials at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5732a3.htm?s_cid=mm5732a3_e