

# Injection Safety

Safe injection practices are infection prevention recommendations intended to prevent transmission of infectious diseases between one patient/resident and another, or between a patient/resident and care provider. Safe injection practices are a part of standard precautions that are applied to every person every time to assure that injections are safely for the patient/resident and care provider. Unsafe injection practices put patients and healthcare personnel at risk of disease transmission including bacterial infections like MRSA or bloodborne pathogens like hepatitis C virus.

A good rule to remember is **One Needle, One Syringe, Only One Time**.

Safe injection practices should be incorporated into all practices related to the preparation, administration and storage of injectable medications.

## Measures to Ensure Injection Safety

- Prepare medications in a clean, uncluttered and well-lit designated area.
- Use safety syringes for administering injections.
- Use aseptic technique to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment.
- Do not administer medications from a syringe to multiple patients/residents, even if the needle or cannula on the syringe is changed.
  - Needles, cannula and syringes are sterile, single-use items. They should not be reused for another patient/resident.
- Use fluid infusion and administration sets (i.e., intravenous bags, tubing, and connectors) for one patient/resident only and dispose appropriately after use.
  - Consider a syringe or needle/cannula contaminated once it has been used to enter or connect to a patient's/resident's intravenous infusion bag or administration set.
- Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible.
- Do not administer medications from single-dose vials or ampules to multiple patients/residents or combine leftover contents for later use.
- If multidose vials must be used, both the needle or cannula and syringe used to access the multidose vial must be sterile.
- Do not keep multidose vials in the immediate patient/resident treatment area and store in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Discard if sterility is compromised or questionable.
- Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for multiple patients/residents.
- Do not recap used syringes. Promptly place syringes in a sharps container.
- Do not overfill sharps containers.