

# INJECTION SAFETY

## A glossary

***Abscess***

A focal collection of pus resulting from the necrosis of tissue, often observed at the site of an injection.

***Antigen***

Any substance which can generate the formation of a specific antibody (a protein created by the immune system to protect the body). For vaccines, the term antigen refers to a vaccine component that induces protection for a single disease (e.g., the measles antigen induces protection against measles).

***Auto-disable (AD) syringe***

A syringe with a non-detachable needle for single use, that delivers fixed doses and includes a feature that prevents the syringe from being used twice. This syringe is used for immunization services and typically comes in 0.1 and 0.5 ml sizes.

***Syringe with reuse-prevention feature (RUP)***

A syringe, for single use, with flexible dosing amounts; it has removable needles and a feature that prevents the syringe from being used twice. This syringe is used for medical injections and typically comes in 2, 3, 5 and 10 ml capacity.

***Syringe with sharps injury prevention Feature (SIP)***

These syringes are similar to the AD and RUP ones, but have the additional feature of preventing sharps injuries.

***Single use syringe***

A syringe designed for single use, with a separate needle. However, because there is no mechanism to prevent re-use, this type of syringe may in fact be used more than once.

<b><i>Burden of disease</i></b>	The health and socio-economic cost of a given medical condition on society.
<b><i>Bloodborne pathogens</i></b>	Infectious agents transmitted through exposure to blood or blood products.
<b><i>Cirrhosis</i></b>	A chronic scarring of the liver that can result in hepatic failure, jaundice and eventual death.
<b><i>Combination vaccine</i></b>	A vaccine that combines several antigens to induce protection against several diseases.
<b><i>Cost-effectiveness</i></b>	The ratio between the results of a health care programme or procedure and its actual cost in financial terms.
<b><i>Disposal</i></b>	The collection, storage and subsequent destruction of all syringes and needles to avoid any needle-stick injury.
<b><i>Hepatitis B</i></b>	Hepatitis caused by a virus and transmitted by exposure to infected blood or blood products or during sexual intercourse. It causes acute and chronic hepatitis. Chronic hepatitis B can cause liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.
<b><i>Hepatitis C</i></b>	Hepatitis caused by a virus and transmitted by exposure to infected blood or blood products. Hepatitis C is usually chronic and can cause cirrhosis and primary liver cancer.
<b><i>HIV/AIDS</i></b>	The human immunodeficiency virus, which is mainly transmitted through sexual intercourse or through exposure to infected blood or blood products. HIV causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
<b><i>Infection control</i></b>	Activities aiming to prevent the spread of pathogens between patients, from health care workers to patients and from patients to health care workers in the health care setting.

<b><i>Injection</i></b>	The administration of a substance into the skin, subcutaneous tissue, muscle tissue or veins.
<b><i>Intramuscular injection</i></b>	An injection given into a muscle.
<b><i>Intravenous injection</i></b>	An injection given into a vein.
<b><i>Jet injector</i></b>	A needle-free device that allows the injection of a substance through the skin under high pressure.
<b><i>Pathogen</i></b>	A microorganism capable of causing disease.
<b><i>Safe injection</i></b>	An injection that does not harm the recipient, does not expose the health worker to any risk and does not result in waste that puts the community at risk.
<b><i>Safety (or Sharps) box</i></b>	A puncture-proof and leak-proof container designed to hold used sharps safely until their final disposal and destruction.
<b><i>Septicaemia</i></b>	Severe generalized infection resulting from the dissemination of pathogenic microorganisms and their toxins in the body.
<b><i>Sharps</i></b>	Equipment used in skin piercing procedures, such as needles and lancets.
<b><i>Sterile</i></b>	Free from living microorganisms, aseptic.
<b><i>Subcutaneous injection</i></b>	An injection delivered under the skin.
<b><i>Toxic shock syndrome</i></b>	An acute, sometimes fatal, intoxication by an infectious agent during which organ activity is blocked causing severe shock and hypotension.
<b><i>Vaccination</i></b>	The administration of vaccine either orally or by injection to produce active immunity to a disease.