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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Burden of disease</strong></th>
<th>The health and socio-economic cost of a given medical condition on society.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bloodborne pathogens</strong></td>
<td>Infectious agents transmitted through exposure to blood or blood products.</td>
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<td><strong>Cirrhosis</strong></td>
<td>A chronic scarring of the liver that can result in hepatic failure, jaundice and eventual death.</td>
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<td><strong>Combination vaccine</strong></td>
<td>A vaccine that combines several antigens to induce protection against several diseases.</td>
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<td><strong>Cost-effectiveness</strong></td>
<td>The ratio between the results of a health care programme or procedure and its actual cost in financial terms.</td>
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<td><strong>Disposal</strong></td>
<td>The collection, storage and subsequent destruction of all syringes and needles to avoid any needle-stick injury.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hepatitis B</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hepatitis C</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIV/AIDS</strong></td>
<td>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).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Infection control</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
**Injection**  
The administration of a substance into the skin, subcutaneous tissue, muscle tissue or veins.

**Intramuscular injection**  
An injection given into a muscle.

**Intravenous injection**  
An injection given into a vein.

**Jet injector**  
A needle-free device that allows the injection of a substance through the skin under high pressure.

**Pathogen**  
A microorganism capable of causing disease.

**Safe injection**  
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.

**Safety (or Sharps) box**  
A puncture-proof and leak-proof container designed to hold used sharps safely until their final disposal and destruction.

**Septicaemia**  
Severe generalized infection resulting from the dissemination of pathogenic microorganisms and their toxins in the body.

**Sharps**  
Equipment used in skin piercing procedures, such as needles and lancets.

**Sterile**  
Free from living microorganisms, aseptic.

**Subcutaneous injection**  
An injection delivered under the skin.

**Toxic shock syndrome**  
An acute, sometimes fatal, intoxication by an infectious agent during which organ activity is blocked causing severe shock and hypotension.

**Vaccination**  
The administration of vaccine either orally or by injection to produce active immunity to a disease.