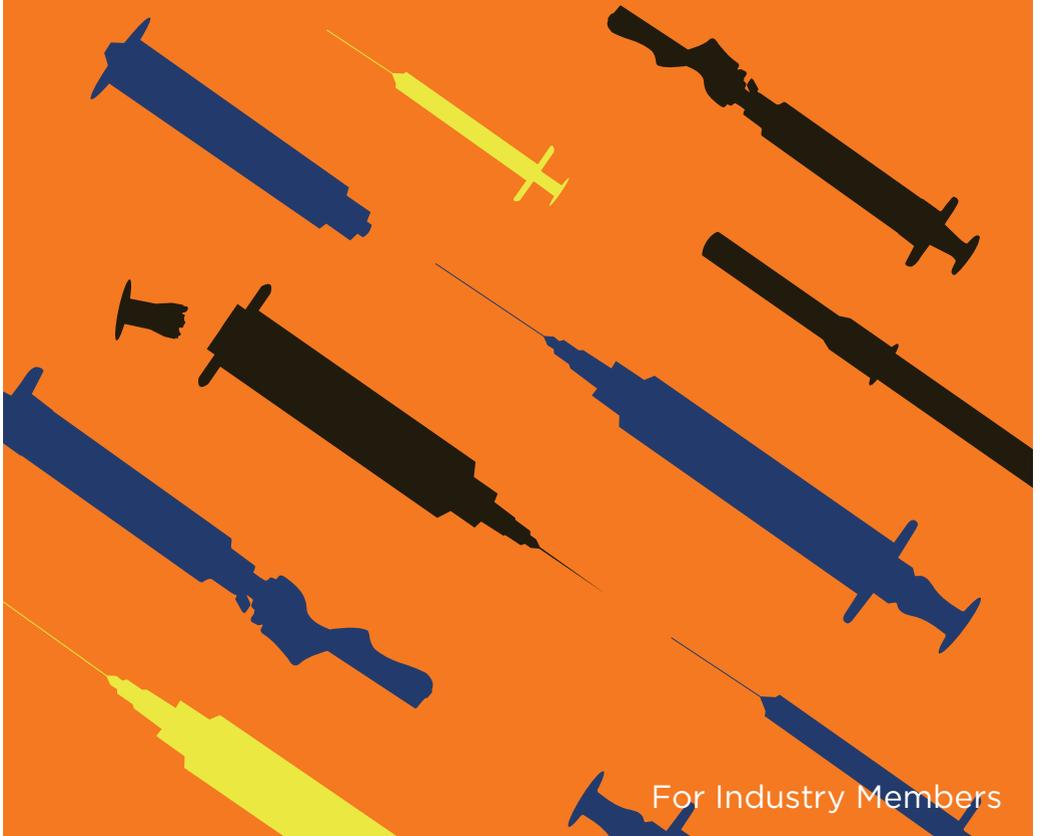




# MAKE SMART INJECTION CHOICES

HOW SMART TECHNOLOGY  
CAN HELP MAKE  
INJECTIONS SAFE



For Industry Members



World Health  
Organization

# MAKING SAFE INJECTION CHOICES



Hundreds of thousands of people die every year as a result of unsafe injections.



The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging governments to invest in national policies that will reduce the burden of unsafe injections.

The WHO 2015 guidelines recommend rational use of injections, safe injection practices and the transition to exclusive use of safety-engineered injection devices for all types of injections by 2020.

## INDUSTRY ACTION & SUPPORT

### **How can action by industry members help to promote safe injections?**

As governments introduce policies that call for improved injection safety, national health authorities are moving towards implementation of these policies. It is vital that they can access and procure sufficient quantities of safety-engineered syringes and other high-quality, single-use injection equipment and infection control supplies.

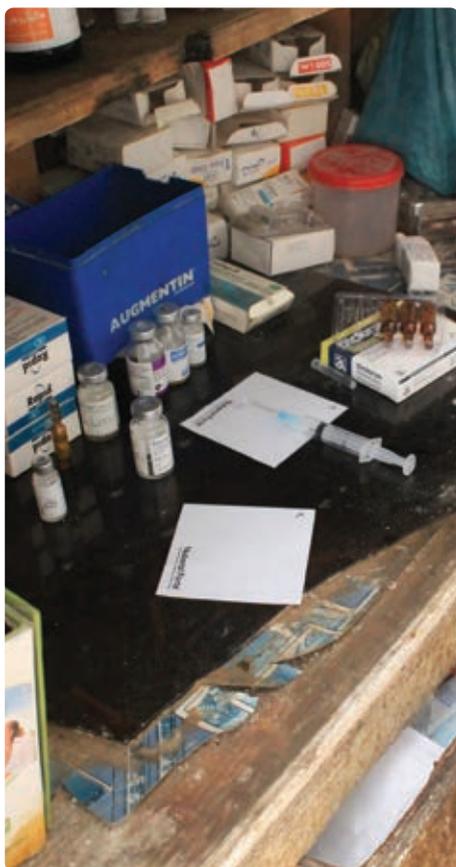
**That's where you come in. Industry can help save lives by supporting safe injection programmes, and working with governments to ensure access to, and supply of, safety-engineered injection devices to protect both patients from syringes and needles re-use and health care workers from needle-stick injuries. Your involvement and technological support can help reduce avoidable infections and save lives.**

# HOW CAN AN INJECTION BE UNSAFE?

## UNSAFE INJECTION PRACTICES

The global burden of unsafe injection practices is caused by a lack of:

- ❌ Awareness of the risks of unsafe injections.
- ❌ Safe injection equipment and supplies.
- ❌ Disposal infrastructure for used injection equipment.



## SAFETY FIRST

WHO recommends that injections only be given when an equivalent oral medication is not available. When injections are required, WHO recommends safety-engineered syringes which have mechanisms preventing re-use of the device and/or protecting health care workers from injuries from a needle for both immunization and therapeutic use. Hundreds of thousands of people could be protected from infections acquired through unsafe injections by using syringes that cannot be used more than once.

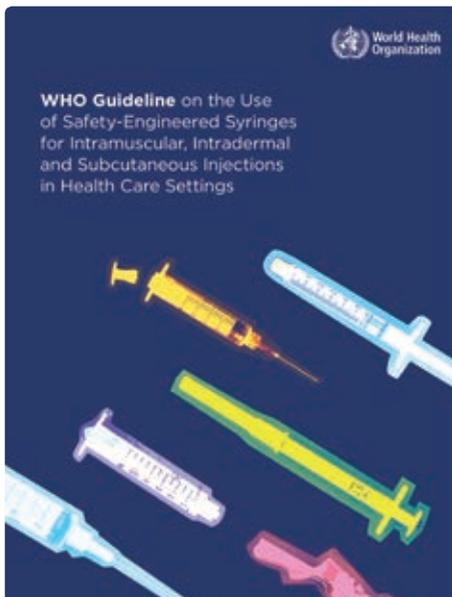
# STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

## WORKING TOGETHER

To meet its 2020 objective to achieve exclusive use of safety-engineered injection devices, WHO is asking manufacturers to begin or expand production, including technology transfers, as soon as possible to ensure economies of scale, agreed pricing, and supply and delivery to countries on a national basis, supporting procurement policies and implementation.

Pricing agreements and strategies for addressing other needs such as single-dose diluents, safety boxes, sharps waste management, and health care worker training are also needed to ensure:

- ✓ Clean and hygienic conditions for administration of an injection.
- ✓ Availability and access to oral formulations for treatment of certain diseases where they are indicated as first line treatments.
- ✓ Immunization for health care workers against infection from viruses that can be transferred through accidental needle-stick injuries.
- ✓ Effective, safe sharps waste management systems.



By investing in the ongoing development of single-use injection safety syringes, offering affordable procurement strategies and processes, and providing support to governments for education and awareness programmes among health care workers, patients and the wider community, **we can all work together to ensure best injection practice globally.**

For further information please visit: [www.who.int/infection-prevention](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention)



©World Health Organization 2017. Some rights reserved.  
This work is available under the CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO Licence.  
All photos ©WHO/Arshad Altaf.

