



MAKE SMART INJECTION CHOICES

INJECTION PROVIDERS' GUIDE FOR SAFE INJECTIONS



World Health
Organization

MAKE SMART INJECTION CHOICES

WHO recommends syringes with re-use prevention (RUP) features for all injections. RUP syringes with a sharps injury protection feature are highly recommended wherever possible.



USE STERILE EQUIPMENT

Re-use of syringes and needles is a violation of patient safety.

- **Always** use a syringe and needle from a new and sealed package.
- Check packaging carefully before opening - **discard** the syringe and needle if the packaging has been damaged or is moist inside.



PREVENT NEEDLE-STICK INJURIES

- Use syringes with a sharps injury protection (SIP) feature to prevent needle-stick injuries.
- Take precautions to make sure your patient does not move during and after the injection.
- Collect used syringes and needles in a safety box immediately after use.
- Never bend the needle.
- Do not re-cap the needle.



PREVENT CONTAMINATION

Prepare each injection in a clean, hygienic area where there is low risk of blood or body fluid contamination and low risk of splashing, e.g. from a tap/sink.

- ✓ Before undertaking this clean procedure, perform hand hygiene (WHO hand hygiene Moment 2).
- ✓ Use single-use vials. If you have no option but using a multi-dose vial, you must take more care to avoid contamination.
- ✓ Open only one vial at a time.
- ✓ Keep one vial for each patient and store with the patient's name on the vial in a separate treatment or medication room.
- ✗ DON'T store multi-dose vials in the open ward.
- ✓ Pierce the septum of a multi-dose vial with a new, sterile needle.
- ✗ Never leave a needle in place in the stopper of a multi-dose vial.
- ✓ Use 'pop-open' ampoules. If you use an ampoule that requires a metal file to open, protect your fingers with a small gauze pad.
- ✓ Inspect and discard medications which are visibly contaminated or damaged. Always follow the instructions for use, storage and handling.
- ✓ Discard a needle that has touched any non-sterile surface (especially your fingers!).



OTHER IMPORTANT TIPS

- Clean hands between injections; this is WHO hand hygiene Moment 3, “after body fluid exposure/risk.”
- You do not usually need to wear gloves to give injections. However they should be used if you anticipate excessive bleeding.
- Remember most injections can be avoided by giving the first-line oral medicines instead.



PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY - MANAGE WASTE SAFELY

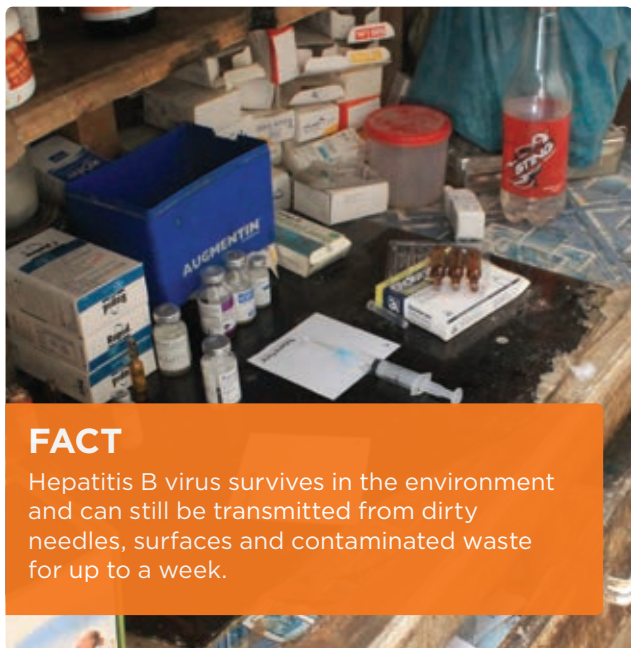
- Close and seal the safety box when three-quarters full.
- To prevent re-use, store the safety boxes in a secure area until they can be taken for final disposal.

PROVIDING SAFE INJECTIONS

HEALTH WORKERS MUST ENSURE EVERY INJECTION IS SAFE

Unsafe injections are driving the spread of deadly infectious diseases among patients, health workers and communities including **hepatitis B, C** and **HIV**.

Health workers can significantly reduce or eliminate infections associated with injections and needle-stick injuries. **By following the simple steps summarized in this leaflet every time you give an injection you will protect yourself, your patients and your community.**



FACT

Hepatitis B virus survives in the environment and can still be transmitted from dirty needles, surfaces and contaminated waste for up to a week.

SAFE INJECTION OVERVIEW



A safe injection does not harm the recipient, does not expose the provider to risk and does not result in waste that is dangerous to others. When giving an injection, always:

- ✔ Ensure patients are protected each and every time they receive a medical injection
 - Injections must always be administered in a clean and hygienic environment
 - Re-use of syringes and needles is a violation of patient safety.
- ✔ Only give injections when they are truly needed.
- ✔ Provide all medical injections with safety engineered syringes.
- ✔ Use a new needle and syringe for each patient.
- ✔ Use a single-dose vial every time.
- ✔ Dispose of used needles and syringes responsibly.

For further information please visit:
www.who.int/infection-prevention