



# High Desert Health System POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 772  
VERSION: 1

## **SUBJECT: SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES**

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**PURPOSE:** Infection Safety or Safe injection practices, is a set of measures taken to perform injections in an optimally safe manner to help prevent the transmission of bloodborne infections from patient to patient.

**POLICY:** All members of the High Desert Health System healthcare team will comply with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for safe injection practices. Reuse of syringes is a significant breach of aseptic technique which can lead to cross contamination and the potential transmission of bloodborne infections. Needles, cannulas and syringes are sterile, single-use items; they are not to be reused for another patient or reused to access a medication or solution that might be used for a subsequent patient.

### **PROCEDURE:**

The following procedures apply to the use of needles, cannulas that replace needles, and intravenous delivery systems and medications.

1. Needles, cannulas and syringes are sterile, single-use items. They should never be reused for another patient nor to access a medication or solution that might be used for a subsequent patient.
2. Use aseptic technique to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment.
3. Do not administer medications from a syringe to multiple patients, even if the needle or cannula on the syringe is changed.
4. Use fluid infusion and administration sets (i.e., intravenous bags, tubing and connectors) for one patient only and dispose appropriately after use. Once it has been used to enter or connect to a patient's intravenous infusion bag or administration set, consider a syringe or needle/cannula contaminated.
5. Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible.
6. Do not administer medications from single-dose vials or ampules to multiple patients or combine leftover contents for later use.
7. If multi-dose vials must be used, both the needle or cannula and syringe used to access the multi-dose vial must be sterile.

8. Do not keep multi-dose vials in the immediate patient treatment area. Store multi-dose vials in accordance with High Desert Health System Policy # 521.7 entitled *Expiration Dating of Open Pharmaceutical Containers*. Discard multi-dose vials if sterility is compromised or questionable.
9. Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for multiple patients.
10. If multi-dose vials are used:
  - Label the vials with “Date Opened” and “Date Expired.”
  - Refer to the “Reference Log for Multi-Dose Vial Disposal” table for the correct date for expiration date (per the above mentioned policy).
  - Refrigerate vials after opening as recommended by the manufacturer.
  - Clean the rubber diaphragm of the vial with alcohol before inserting a device into the vial.
  - Discard the vial when suspected or visible contamination occurs, 28 days after initial vial entry, when the vial has been entered and no “date opened or date expired” is apparent or when the manufacturer’s expiration date is reached (whichever comes first).
  - Never leave a needle in the septum of the vial, as this may encourage reuse of the syringe.
11. Store sterile supplies (syringes, needles, medications, IV delivery systems) in a clean area and in a manner which prevents contamination.

**REFERENCES:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, 2007, retrieved on 3-21-11 from CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>

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