

Injection Practices Policy and Procedure

Purpose

Safe injection practices help prevent the transmission of bloodborne infections from patient to patient.

Policy

All members of the healthcare team will comply with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for safe injection practices.

Procedure

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

1. Needles, cannulae 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 multidose vials must be used, both the needle or cannula and syringe used to access the multidose vial must be sterile.
8. Do not keep multidose vials in the immediate patient treatment area. Store multidose vials in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Discard multidose 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.

Reference

To access the CDC's complete 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, which includes recommendations on safe injection practices, see the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/isolation/Isolation2007.pdf>