

INFECTION-CONTROL AND SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES TO PREVENT PATIENT-TO-PATIENT TRANSMISSION OF BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Injection safety

- Use a sterile, single-use, disposable needle and syringe for each injection and discard intact in an appropriate sharps container after use.
- Use single-dose medication vials, pre-filled syringes, and ampules when possible. Do not administer medications from single-dose vials to multiple patients or combine leftover contents for later use.
- If multiple-dose vials are used, restrict them to a centralized medication area or for single patient use. Never re-enter a vial with a needle or syringe used on one patient if that vial will be used to withdraw medication for another patient. Store vials in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and discard if sterility is compromised.
- Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for multiple patients.
- Use aseptic technique to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment and medications.

Patient-care equipment

- Handle patient-care equipment that might be contaminated with blood in a way that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposures, contamination of clothing, and transfer of microorganisms to other patients and surfaces.
- Evaluate equipment and devices for potential cross-contamination of blood.
- Establish procedures for safe handling during and after use, including cleaning and disinfection or sterilization as indicated.

CDC. Transmission of Hepatitis B and C Viruses in Outpatient Settings --- New York, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, 2000—2002. MMWR 2003; 52(38):901-906.

Work environment

- Dispose of used syringes and needles at the point of use in a sharps container that is puncture-resistant and leak-proof and that can be sealed before completely full.
- Maintain physical separation between clean and contaminated equipment and supplies.
- Prepare medications in areas physically separated from those with potential blood contamination.
- Use barriers to protect surfaces from blood contamination during blood sampling.
- Clean and disinfect blood-contaminated equipment and surfaces in accordance with recommended guidelines.

Hand hygiene and gloves

- Perform hand hygiene (i.e., hand washing with soap and water or use of an alcohol-based hand rub) before preparing and administering an injection, before and after donning gloves for performing blood sampling, after inadvertent blood contamination, and between patients.
- Wear gloves for procedures that might involve contact with blood and change gloves between patients.

