

DANGEROUS MISPERCEPTIONS

Here are some examples of dangerous misperceptions about safe injection practices.



Myth	Truth
Changing the needle makes a syringe safe for reuse.	Once they are used, both the needle and syringe are contaminated and must be discarded. A new sterile needle and a new sterile syringe should always be used for each patient and to access medication vials.
Syringes can be reused as long as an injection is administered through an intervening length of IV tubing.	Everything from the medication bag to the patient's IV catheter is a single interconnected unit. Distance from the patient, gravity, or even infusion pressure do not ensure that small amounts of blood won't contaminate the syringe once it has been connected to the unit. Syringes should never be reused for more than one patient or to access medication vials.
If you don't see blood in the IV tubing or syringe, it means that those supplies are safe for reuse.	Pathogens including hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, and HIV can be present in sufficient quantities to produce infection without any visible blood.
Single-dose vials with large volumes that appear to contain multiple doses can be used for more than one patient.	Single-dose vials should not be used for more than one patient regardless of the vial size.

**Injection Safety is
Every Provider's Responsibility!**

