

THE IMPACT OF UNSAFE MEDICAL INJECTIONS IN THE U.S.

Unsafe Injection Practices Have Devastating Consequences¹

Syringe reuse and misuse of medication vials have resulted in dozens of outbreaks and

THE NEED TO ALERT MORE THAN 150,000 PATIENTS...

...to seek testing for bloodborne pathogens such as

HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV,² and have led to...



Patient illness and death



Legal charges/ malpractice suits

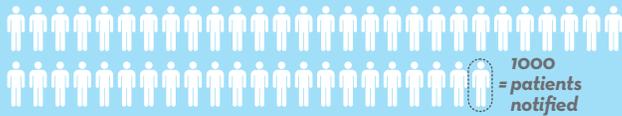


Loss of clinician licenses



Criminal charges

In just one clinic, syringe reuse to access medication vials for multiple patients resulted in an outbreak and one of the largest public health alerts in U.S. history.



50,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO INFECTION



Outbreaks Occur in a Variety of Settings



Hospitals

Primary care clinics

Pediatric offices



Outpatient surgical centers

Pain clinics

Imaging facilities

Oncology clinics

Dental clinics

Health fairs



Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility

Steps Every Healthcare Provider Should Take



Follow proper infection control practices and maintain aseptic technique during the preparation and administration of injected medications (e.g., perform hand hygiene).



Never administer medications from the same syringe to more than one patient, even if the needle is changed.



Never enter a vial with a used syringe or needle.



Do not use medications packaged as single-dose or single-use for more than one patient.



Do not use bags of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for more than one patient.



Limit the use of multi-dose vials and dedicate them to a single patient whenever possible.



Always use facemasks when injecting material or inserting a catheter into the epidural or subdural space.



Safe Injection Practices Coalition

The Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) is a partnership of healthcare-related organizations led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The SIPC developed the *One & Only Campaign*—a public health effort to eliminate unsafe medical injections by raising awareness of safe injection practices. For a list of SIPC Partners, more information about the Campaign, and to view additional resources including videos and other materials, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/1anonly.html>.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (August 24, 2012). Injection Safety Information for Providers. In CDC.gov. Retrieved October 10 2012, from <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers.html>.
- 2 Guh, Alice Y. MD, MPH; Thompson, Nicola D. PhD; Schaefer, Melissa K. MD; Patel, Priti R. MD, MPH; Perz, Joseph F. DrPH. Patient Notification for Bloodborne Pathogen Testing due to Unsafe Injection Practices in the US Health Care Settings, 2001-2011. Medical Care Journal, May2012.

