

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 be used for each injection and each entry into a medication vial.
Syringes can be reused as long as an injection is administered through IV tubing.	Syringes and needles should never be reused. The IV tubing, syringe, and other components represent a single, interconnected unit. Distance from the patient, gravity, or infusion pressure do not ensure that small amounts of blood won't contaminate the syringe once it has been connected to the unit.
If you don't see blood in the IV tubing or syringe, it means that those supplies are safe for reuse.	Germs such as hepatitis C virus and staph or MRSA are invisible to the naked eye, but can easily infect patients even when present in microscopic quantities. Do not reuse syringes, needles, or IV tubing.
It's okay to use leftover medicine from use single-dose or single-use vials for more than one patient.	Single-dose or single-use vials should not be used for more than one patient regardless of how much medicine is remaining.

Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility!

The *One & Only Campaign* is a public health effort to eliminate unsafe medical injections. To learn more about safe injection practices, please visit OneandOnlyCampaign.org.

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