## THE IMPACTS OF UNSAFE MEDICAL INJECTIONS IN THE U.S.

## **Unsafe Injection Practices Have Devastating Consequences**<sup>1</sup>

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

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

...to seek testing for bloodborne pathogens such as **HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV**<sup>2</sup> and have led to...



Patient illness and death



Legal charges/ malpractice suits



Loss of clinician license



**Criminal charges** 

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

50,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO INFECTION \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

\$16~\$20 MILLION

# Outbreaks Occur in a Variety of Medical Settings



Primary care clinics

Pediatric offices

Ambulatory surgical centers

Pain remediation clinics

**Imaging facilities** 

Oncology clinics

Health fairs

Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility

### Steps Every Healthcare Provider Should Take



Needles and syringes should not be used for more than one patient or reused to draw up additional medication.



Do not administer medications from a single-dose vial or IV bag to multiple patients.



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



Speak up if you see a colleague not following safe injection practices.



The *One & Only Campaign* aims to eradicate outbreaks from unsafe medical injections by raising awareness among patients and healthcare providers about proper practices. The campaign is a public health effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and produced by the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC), a collaboration of several medical societies, state health departments, patient advocates, and private medical companies.





#### **FOOTNOTES**

- 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.

