

# Injection Safety Template

Date Revised: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Date Effective: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee

## **Define the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice:**

Injection safety or safe injection practices are a set of measures taken to perform injections in a manner that is optimally safe for residents, facility staff, and others. A safe injection does not harm the recipient, does not expose the provider to any avoidable risks, and does not result in waste that is dangerous for the community (e.g., through inappropriate disposal of injection equipment).

## **Purpose (provides background to explain the rationale for the policy/procedure)**

Unsafe injection practices, including reuse of needles and syringes and mishandling of injectable medications, have resulted in exposure of patients to pathogens. To protect our residents and staff, we must ensure that safe injection practices are always followed when preparing and administering injectable medications.

## **Responsibility (defines who is responsible for following this policy/procedure)**

For the purpose of this policy, staff refers to those in the facility who are credentialed to prepare and administer injectable medications, including, but not limited to, Registered Nurse (RN), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Physician (MD/DO), Physician Assistant (PA), and External Consultants (e.g., Pharmacy Services, Wound Care Services, Podiatrists).

## **Policy Content Considerations**

- Guidance about where medication preparation may occur.
- Maintaining adequate supplies in all designated medication preparation areas, including who is responsible and appropriate practices (e.g., frequency of checking supply levels).
- Guidance about proper response if unsafe injection practices are identified.

*Note: Other policies and procedures should reinforce safe injection practices. For example, your policies and procedures addressing pharmacy considerations may incorporate guidance about purchasing appropriately sized vials to limit the sharing of multi-dose vials between residents. Policies and procedures addressing proper handling of controlled substances may include language describing the risk of pathogen transmission that diversion can pose to residents.*

## **Procedure Content Considerations (outlines the steps/supplies for performing the practice)**

Examples of safe injection practices that should be addressed in your facility's procedures include:

- Preparation of injectable medications in designated clean area(s).
- Adherence to aseptic technique.
- Proper storage and use of injection equipment (e.g., syringes, needles).
  - Proper storage and use of insulin pens and other similar devices.

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- Proper disposal of used injection equipment (e.g., syringes, needles).
- Proper identification and handling of medication containers.
  - o Single-dose and single-use containers (e.g., vials, intravenous solution bags or bottles, ampules).
  - o Multi-dose vials.
- Proper storage of medications in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations (e.g., temperature requirements, expiration date, beyond-use date), including practices to prevent theft (diversion) of controlled substances.

For example, here are some elements that should be included in facility procedures for preparing an injection from a multi-dose vial:

- Verify the medication order, including resident name, medication, dose, and time.
- Ensure that you have the correct medication vial, including checking the concentration and verifying that the vial is truly multi-dose.
- Inspect the multi-dose vial for any obvious signs of contamination, and discard the vial if there is any potential for contamination.
- Verify that the expiration date and beyond-use date have not been exceeded. If the multi-dose vial is being accessed for the first time, label it with the beyond-use date.
- Perform hand hygiene.
- Prepare the injection, using aseptic technique, in a designated clean area free from any potential sources of contamination.
- Disinfect the rubber septum with an alcohol wipe.
- Remove the new sterile needle and sterile syringe from their packaging.
- Enter the vial with the sterile needle and sterile syringe and withdraw the appropriate dose of medication per the medication order.
- Label the syringe if it will not be immediately administered.
- Return the multi-dose vial to the proper designated clean storage area.

## **Guidelines, Standards, and Resources for Policy and Procedure Development**

Safe injection practices should be incorporated into all practices related to the preparation, administration, and storage of injectable medications. These policies and procedures should be developed using evidence-based guidelines or national standards, such as resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please refer to the following resources for developing Injection Safety policies and procedures for your facility:

- 2007 *Guidelines for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings*: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines.pdf>
- CDC Injection Safety website: <https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/index.html>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention website: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html>