

Safe Injection Practices

Safe injection practices are a vital component of healthcare organizations' infection prevention and control (IPC) protocols. Yet, despite established standards and guidance, lapses in injection safety still happen. These lapses can put patients and healthcare providers at risk of disease transmission and other harms, such as needlestick injuries. Unsafe injection practices also can lead to financial losses as a result of increased liability exposure and costs associated with potential loss of reputation.

To address these issues, healthcare organizations should include safe injection practices as part of their IPC policies, training, and core competencies for healthcare providers and staff members. This checklist offers key strategies for injection safety and can help organizational leaders evaluate their current protocols and identify improvement opportunities.¹

	Yes	No
<i>Organizational Policies and Procedures</i>		
Does your organization incorporate guidance on safe injection practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other professional organizations into its IPC policies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization's IPC policies include guidance related to hand hygiene and the use of personal protective equipment (e.g., gloving and using face masks during the administration of epidural injections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization have and enforce protocols for the use of aseptic technique — i.e., handling, preparing, and storing medications and injection equipment/supplies to prevent microbial contamination?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization's IPC policies require that medication preparation occurs only in a clean, dedicated medication prep area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has your organization implemented policies and procedures for cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Organizational Policies and Procedures (continued)		
Has your organization implemented policies and procedures to prevent drug diversion ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization stock adequate injection supplies and equipment to prevent reuse of items?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has your organization implemented or considered technologies related to injection safety (e.g., auto-disable syringes or reuse prevention syringes)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safe Injection Practices		
Are injections prepared as close as possible to the time of administration to the patient?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are needles/syringes removed from sterile packaging at the time of use and not in advance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are intravenous (IV) bags opened or spiked as close to the time of use as possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are single-dose medication vials used whenever possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are multidose medication vials dedicated to a single patient whenever possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If multidose vials must be used for more than one patient, are they maintained in a centralized medication area and kept out of patient treatment areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are medication vials entered with a new needle and a new syringe, even when obtaining additional doses for the same patient?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do providers put a date on multidose vials when they are first opened and discard them within 28 days unless the manufacturer specifies a different disposal date?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do providers swab the access diaphragms of medication vials with alcohol or an appropriate disinfectant before inserting a device into the vial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the following injection practices prohibited? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administering medications from the same syringe to multiple patients (even if the needle or cannula on the syringe is changed)? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Safe Injection Practices (continued)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administering medications from a single-dose vial or IV solution bag to more than one patient? Combining the leftover contents of single-dose vials for later use? Reusing syringes to enter medication vials/solutions? Reusing IV administration supplies (e.g., bags, tubes, and connectors) on more than one patient? Reusing vacutainer holders? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Are used sharps disposed of at the point of care in sharps containers that are closable, puncture-resistant, and leak-proof?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do healthcare providers follow the CDC’s infection control considerations for blood glucose monitoring and insulin administration ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do healthcare providers follow best practices for infection prevention during point-of-care testing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are patient care areas appropriately spaced, and do patients have dedicated IV poles and chair-side tables?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do providers take precautions to ensure that potentially contaminated items do not come in contact with other patient care items?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are immediate-use compounded sterile preparations (CSPs) administered within 4 hours following the start of the preparation per United States Pharmacopeia–National Formulary standards for sterile compounding (USP <797>)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training and Oversight		
Do providers who prepare and/or administer parenteral medications receive training on safe injection practices during orientation, annually, and when new equipment, technology, or procedures are introduced?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are providers required to demonstrate competency with safe injection practices following training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Training and Oversight (continued)		
Do providers receive training on how to properly dispose of used syringes, needles, and IV administration supplies (e.g., bags, tubes, and connectors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization routinely monitor providers to ensure adherence to safe injection protocols?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are any safety issues identified during monitoring documented, and do providers receive feedback?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learn More

For more information about IPC guidelines and best practices in various healthcare settings, see the following MedPro materials:

- [Risk Resources: Infection Prevention & Control in Ambulatory Care Settings](#)
- [Risk Resources: Infection Prevention & Control in Dentistry](#)
- [Risk Resources: Infection Prevention & Control in Hospitals](#)
- [Risk Resources: Infection Prevention & Control in Senior Care Organizations](#)

Endnotes

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, September). *Guide to infection prevention for outpatient settings: Minimum expectations for safe care* (Version 2.3). Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/hcp/prevention-healthcare/outpatient-expectations.html; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, May 15). *Dental infection prevention and control: Best practices for safe injections*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/dental-infection-control/hcp/dental-ipc-faqs/safe-injections.html; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention One & Only Campaign. (n.d.). *Injection safety checklist*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/injection-safety/media/pdfs/safe-injection-checklist-p.pdf; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, March 26). *Injection safety: Preventing unsafe injection practices*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/injection-safety/hcp/clinical-safety/index.html; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 12). *Injection safety: Safe injection practices to prevent transmission of infections to patients*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/injection-safety/hcp/clinical-guidance/index.html; American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2023). *USP <797> key changes*. Retrieved from www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/pharmacy-practice/resource-centers/compounding/docs/USP-797-Key-Changes.pdf

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