

Injection Safety Best Practices

Best Practice Definition

A “best practice” is a technique, method, process, activity or incentive, which has proven to be most effective in providing a certain positive outcome. Best practices are used to improve an organization’s performance through additional accountability, compliance, transparency and risk control.

Goal

Safe injection practices are a set of measures for performance of injections in an optimally safe manner for patients, health care providers, and others. Safe injection practices include the use of aseptic technique to prevent the transmission of blood borne pathogens to both patients and health care professionals.

All personnel who administer injections should receive comprehensive, competency-based training regarding policies and procedures for safe injections before administering any injections. Creation of an environment of “trust culture” where staff trust the situation and everyone involved will be trusted fairly is a strategy to prevent unsafe injections.

Steps for Safe Injections

1. A safe injection program lead worker must be designated and given authority to plan, implement and evaluate program.
2. A comprehensive, skill-based written injection safety policy is established and available to all staff. The policy is updated annually.
3. All new employees will review the policy and receive comprehensive training on safe injections.
4. All new employees will be observed while setting up, preparing and administering an injection with documentation of the employee’s competency completed.
5. All existing employees will participate in an annual competency check that includes set up, preparation and administration of an injection with observation and documentation of competency.
6. All competency documentation shall be kept in the employee’s personnel file or in a separate file with documentation of all employee’s competency checks.

Safe Injection Techniques

- Choosing the correct vial of medication
- Checking the name on the medication vial against the written order to verify the correct medication is given to the correct patient
- Checking the expiration date on the vial of medication
- Preparing injections only when they are ready to be administered
- Examining the vial for contamination including discoloration, particulates and if necessary, ability to be re-suspended
- Removing the dust cover off the vial and cleansing the rubber stopper with a new single sterile pre-packaged alcohol pad that is at least 60% alcohol
- Using one new, sterile, individually wrapped needle and syringe one time for one patient
- Performing hand hygiene before and after preparing and administering an injection even if wearing gloves for the procedure
- Discarding the needle and syringe immediately after use in designated container
- Discarding a single dose vial after withdrawing one dose from the vial, even if there is some fluid left in the vial

“Nevers” in Injection Safety

- Never reuse needles, syringes, single dose vials of medication, IV tubing, or single use bags of IV solution for more than one patient
- Never draw partial doses from separate vials to make one full dose
- Never transfer medication from one syringe to another syringe
- Never enter a vial with a used needle or syringe

Strategies to Prevent Unsafe Injection Practices

- Establish an environment that values reporting and investigating unsafe injection practices as part of risk management and quality improvement
- Promote a culture where staff is willing to report unsafe injection practices trusting that the situation and those involved will be treated fairly

INJECTION SAFETY BEST PRACTICES

- Provide staff with skills to intervene when they see unsafe injection practices through education
- Error reporting should be viewed as opportunities to discover how unsafe injection practices occur and to share ideas to prevent or reduce those unsafe practices without fear of punishment and ridicule

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