



# Injection safety

*Many injections administered in the world are unsafe. Of particular concern is the reuse of injection equipment without sterilisation, which is increasingly recognised as a major source of infection with bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.*

## What is a safe injection?

- A safe injection does not harm the recipient.
- A safe injection does not expose the healthcare worker to any avoidable risk.
- A safe injection does not result in waste that is dangerous for the community.

## Injection safety products

As recommended by the WHO, the use of single use injection devices offers the best infection control and is a key element for injection safety improvement.



Missionpharma encourages the use of safe injection devices and provides a wide range of syringes with reuse prevention features, such as auto-disable (AD) syringes and retraction safety syringes.

Furthermore, we supply safety boxes for the appropriate disposal of used syringes and needles for the facilitation of waste management.

## Did you know that...

- 16 billion injections are administered worldwide each year.
- 5% of all new HIV infections in developing and transitional countries are caused by the reuse of injection devices each year.
- Each year, unsafe injections account for 30% of new hepatitis B infections and 40% of new hepatitis C infections.
- Each unsafe injection costs governments 3-5 times the cost of auto-disable syringes.

## "Bundling"

The WHO recommends that injection device safety is ensured in all healthcare facilities so that all supplies of injectable drugs are delivered with matching quantities of safe injection equipment and sharps collection boxes.

To support this recommendation, Missionpharma proposes to pack and distribute single use injection devices, single dose diluent and injectable products in a single kit.

## The challenges of ensuring injection safety

Supplying safe injections alone does not result in injection safety. In every country, efforts to ensure safe and appropriate use of injections require collaboration between all partners. The "Safe Injection Global Network" (SIGN) has been established with the aim of achieving safe and appropriate use of injections throughout the world.

Implementation of the following three strategies are key elements for the successful integration of syringes with reuse prevention features and safety boxes into immunisation programmes and family planning services:

- 1 A change in the behaviour of healthcare workers and patients as they must be encouraged to adopt safe practices and avoid unnecessary injections. Ensuring availability of sufficient quantities of clean injection equipment in each healthcare facility.
- 2 Mechanisms should be in place so that needles and syringes are disposed of in a way that ensures that dirty injection equipment is not reused and the risk of accidental needle-stick injuries is minimised.
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