

**New York State Department of Health  
Safe Injections Train-the-Trainer Webcast - July 11, 2013**

**Questions & Answers**

**Q. When using multi-dose vials to draw up flu vaccine, is it necessary to change the needle between drawing vaccine and injecting?**

**A.** In general, it is not necessary to change needles after drawing up a medication and before administration. However, it is important to always follow medication manufacturer instructions for handling and administration of medications. If there is a question that the needle should be changed for a particular medication, it is advisable to check with the pharmacist or the medication manufacturer.

**Q. Do multi-dose vials contain preservatives?**

**A.** In general, multi-dose vials tend to contain preservatives whereas single-dose vials do not. However, you should consult the product manufacturer's literature to determine the contents of any specific medication vial.

**Q. Is using insulin within 30 days after opening proper?**

**A.** This question is best answered by consulting with your pharmacist or the medication manufacturer. However, the CDC recommends that medication vials always be discarded whenever sterility is compromised or questionable. In addition, the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) General Chapter 797 (referenced below) recommends the following for multi-dose vials of sterile pharmaceuticals:

- If a multi-dose has been opened or accessed (e.g., needle-punctured) the vial should be dated and discarded within 28 days unless the manufacturer specifies a different (shorter or longer) date for that opened vial.
- If a multi-dose vial has **not** been opened or accessed (e.g., needle-punctured), it should be discarded according to the manufacturer's expiration date.

The manufacturer's expiration date refers to the date after which an unopened multi-dose vial should not be used. The beyond-use-date refers to the date after which an opened multi-dose vial should not be used. The beyond-use-date should never exceed the manufacturer's original expiration date. For more information please review the following resources:

CDC Injection Safety available at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider\\_fags\\_multivials.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_fags_multivials.html)

United States Pharmacopeia (USP) 797: Guidebook to Pharmaceutical Compounding – Sterile Preparations. Second Edition, June 1, 2008.

**Q. Would it be a good practice to prepare an IV solution with primed IV tubing the night before an endoscopy procedure?**

**A.** In general, bags or bottles of IV fluids should be accessed as close as possible to the time they will be used. With limited data on actual contamination in real practice and linking contamination with patient infection, recommending a definitive time frame is not feasible at this time.

**Q. If I was at a doctor's office and noticed questionable practices, what is the best way to approach further investigation?**

**A.** If you are at a doctor's office and you notice questionable practices, ask questions to clarify what you are seeing, and if you don't feel comfortable, leave. Here are some questions from the *One & Only Campaign* (<http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/content/what-ask-healthcare-providers>) that may help you bring up this subject, specifically around injection procedures:

1. Will there be a new needle, new syringe, and a new vial for this procedure or injection?
2. Can you tell me how you prevent the spread of infections in your facility?
3. What steps are you taking to keep me safe?

If you become concerned after the fact, contact your local health department to report what you experienced. A list of contact numbers for NYS local health departments is available at: [http://www.nyscho.org/i4a/member\\_directory/feSearchForm.cfm?directory\\_id=2&pageid=3289&showTitle=1](http://www.nyscho.org/i4a/member_directory/feSearchForm.cfm?directory_id=2&pageid=3289&showTitle=1)

The **NYS Office of Professional Medical Conduct** is responsible for investigating complaints about **physicians, physician assistants, and specialist assistants**. Please visit their website at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/conduct/contact.htm>

The **NYS Education Department's Office of the Professions** investigates and prosecutes professional misconduct in **all professions except medicine**. Please visit their website at: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/opd/>

**Q. Could you review transmission from the glucometer itself?**

**A.** Information regarding outbreaks involving diabetes care equipment as well as the safe use of glucometers and other point-of-care devices is available at this CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>

In addition, the following references relate to blood contamination of glucometers and other point-of-care devices:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Notes from the field: Deaths from acute hepatitis B virus infection associated with assisted blood glucose monitoring in an assisted-living facility – North Carolina, August-October 2010. *MMWR* 2011;60:182.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Transmission of hepatitis B virus among persons undergoing blood glucose monitoring in long-term-care facilities—Mississippi, North Carolina, and Los Angeles County, California, 2003-2004. *MMWR* 2005;54:220-223.

Farkas K, Jermendy G. Transmission of hepatitis B infection during home blood glucose monitoring. *Diabetic Medicine* 1997;14:263.

Louie RF, Lau MJ, Lee JH, et al. Multicenter study of the prevalence of blood contamination on point-of-care glucose meters and recommendations for controlling contamination. *Point of Care* 2005;4:158-163.

**Q. Can endoscopes and colonoscopes be safely cleaned to prevent transmission of hepatitis?**

**A.** Reprocessing of reusable medical equipment is an important aspect of infection prevention and control. Please review the following resources for information on this subject:

Petersen BT, et al. Multisociety guideline on reprocessing flexible GI endoscopes: 2011. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* , Vol. 32, No. 6 (June 2011), pp. 527-537.

Walter VA, DiMarino AJ Jr.. American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy-Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates Endoscope Reprocessing Guidelines. *Gastrointest Endosc Clin N Am.* 2000 Apr;10(2):265-73.