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Sharp safety begins with you




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Basic Patient Safety

- Healthcare should not provide any avenue for transmission of bloodborne viruses
 - Basic patient safety / "red flag"
 - Risks of patient-to-patient spread on par with HCW and blood safety efforts
- Entirely preventable
 - Standard Precautions / **Aseptic Technique**
 - Aseptic techniques for handling parenteral medications, administering injections, and sampling blood



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Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007

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Standard Precautions
Examples of Safe Injection Practices

- Use aseptic technique to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment
- Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible
- Needles, cannulae and syringes are sterile, single-use items; they should not be reused for another patient nor to access a medication or solution that might be used for a subsequent patient
- Do not use bags or bottles of intravenous solution as a common source of supply for multiple patients

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What are some of the incorrect practices that have resulted in transmission of pathogens?

- Using the same syringe to administer medication to more than one patient, even if the needle was changed
- Using a common bag of saline or other IV fluid for more than one patient, and
 - Leaving an IV set in place for dispensing fluid
 - Accessing the bag with a syringe that has already been used to flush a patient's IV or catheter
- Accessing a shared medication vial with a syringe that has already been used to administer medication to a patient

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Improper use of syringes, needles, and medication vials can result in:

- Transmission of life-threatening infections to patients
- Notification of patients of possible exposure to bloodborne pathogens and recommendation that they be tested for hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Referral of providers to licensing boards for disciplinary action
- Malpractice suits filed by patients