

Non-Hospital Medical and Surgical
Facilities Accreditation Program

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Single-use Devices and
Multi-dose Vials

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Introduction

Strict adherence to safe injection practices and other infection prevention and control practices are central to patient safety as improper use of syringes, needles and medication vials puts patients at risk of contracting blood-borne pathogens.

Medical devices are categorized as single-use devices (SUDs) or as reusable devices. Plastic syringes, needles and cannulas are considered critical single-use devices and are designated by the manufacturer to be used only once, on one patient only. SUDs must not be reprocessed or used on another patient.

Single-use vials are to be used whenever possible as the use of multi-dose vials, for more than one patient, increases the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens. Patient safety should always be prioritized over cost when choosing between multi-dose and single-use vials.

| No. | Description |
|---------------|--|
| IPC1.0 | SINGLE-USE DEVICES AND MULTI-DOSE VIALS |
| IPC1.1 | Single-use devices are not reused or reprocessed. |
| IPC1.1.1 | M All needles are single-patient use only. <i>Guidance: Needles, cannulas and syringes are sterile, single-use items. They are never reused for another patient, to withdraw a medication or solution from a vial or bag, or to administer medication to multiple patients. Needles, cannulas and syringes are discarded immediately following single use.</i> |
| IPC1.1.2 | M All syringes are single-patient use only. <i>Guidance: Needles, cannulas and syringes are sterile, single-use items. They are never reused for another patient, to withdraw a medication or solution from a vial or bag, or to administer medication to multiple patients. Syringes are not reused for multiple patients even if the needle or cannula on the syringe has been changed. Needles, cannulas and syringes are discarded immediately following single use.</i> |
| IPC1.2 | Single-use vials are safely and appropriately handled, stored and accessed. |
| IPC1.2.1 | M Vials and ampoules labelled as single-use are not used for more than one patient. <i>Guidance: Single-use medication vials should be used whenever possible. Leftover contents from single-use vials or ampoules is not saved and used for another patient.</i> |
| IPC1.2.2 | M Intravenous bags are single-use and are not used for more than one patient. <i>Guidance: Intravenous fluid bags are used for fluid replacement and medication delivery only. Medications that require reconstitution before administration are reconstituted using injection diluent vials (e.g. 10 ml single-dose 0.9% sodium chloride injection USP Diluent); they are not reconstituted by drawing off fluid from an IV bag.</i> |
| IPC1.3 | Multi-dose vials are safely and appropriately handled, stored and accessed. |
| IPC1.3.1 | M Multi-dose vials are marked with the first entry date. <i>Guidance: Multi-dose vials should be avoided as much as possible; however, if they are used, the facility must practise safe handling and administration. Once the protective cap is removed, the vial must be dated and initialed by the health-care provider.</i> |
| IPC1.3.2 | M Aseptic technique is used when accessing a multi-dose vial. <i>Guidance: The rubber stopper of the multi-dose vial is disinfected with an alcohol swab and allowed to dry. A new needle and a new syringe are used to access the vial.</i> |

| No. | Description |
|---------------|---|
| IPC1.3.3 | <p>M Multi-dose vials are discarded within seven days of opening. <i>Guidance: Multi-dose vials are discarded when the vial has been entered but not labeled with an entry date, if contamination is suspected, if it is past the manufacturer's expiry date (e.g. the date after which an unopened multi-dose vial should not be used) or if seven days after the initial vial entry has been reached. Multi-dose vials have a manufacturer recommended discard date of 28 days after opening; however, the antimicrobial preservative in these vials has no effect on blood-borne viruses. As multi-dose vials in the non-hospital setting are likely used for more than one patient and/or located in immediate patient treatment areas (e.g. operating room, procedure room, anesthesia and procedure carts), in the interest of patient safety, multi-dose vials are to be discarded within seven days of opening to limit the time frame for risk of contamination.</i></p> |
| IPC1.4 | <p>Policies and procedures contain all the information necessary for the safety of patients, staff and visitors. <i>Intent: Policies and procedures ensure that activities/procedures are performed consistently and accurately by all personnel within the non-hospital facility.</i></p> |
| IPC1.4.1 | <p>M There is policy and procedures regarding single-use devices and multi-dose vials.</p> |

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