



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Behavioral Wellness
A System of Care and Recovery

**Programmatic
Policy and Procedure**

Section	Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	Effective:	7/26/2017
Sub-section	Infection Prevention	Version:	1.1
Policy	Safe Injection Practices, Single-Use Devices and Sterile Fluid Management	Last Revised:	DRAFT
Director's Approval	_____	Date	_____
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PHF Medical Director's Approval	_____	Date	_____
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Supersedes:	Safe Injection Practices, Single-Use Devices and Sterile Fluid Management eff. 7/26/2017	Audit Date:	DRAFT
Approvals:	PHF MPC Approval:		

1. **PURPOSE/SCOPE**

- 1.1. To ~~describe and reinforce~~ **define** safe injection practices and the proper management of single-use devices and sterile ~~goods~~ **fluids**.
- 1.2. To adhere to the basic principles of infection **prevention** ~~control~~, prevent transmission of infectious agents and provide safe patient care.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

The following terms are limited to the purposes of this policy:

- 2.1. **Single-use device** – also referred to as a disposable device; intended for use on one (1) patient during a single procedure. It is not intended to be reprocessed (i.e., cleaned, disinfected/sterilized) and used on another patient. The labeling may or may not identify the device as single-use or disposable. This includes but is not limited to needles, syringes, and cannulae.
- 2.2. **Sterile fluid** – medications or treatment solutions prepared, packaged and sealed in such a manner as to prevent contamination. This includes but is not limited to single- and multi-dose vials of injectable medications.

3. **POLICY**

- 3.1. Needles, syringes and cannulae, single-use devices, and sterile fluids shall be handled in accordance with industry standards of practice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines.

4. **SAFE INJECTION PRACTICES**

The following practices apply to the use of needles and cannulas that replace needles:

- 4.1. Use aseptic technique to avoid contamination of sterile injection equipment and solution.
- 4.2. The septum on a medication vial is disinfected with alcohol prior to piercing.
- 4.3. Do not administer medications from a syringe to multiple patients, even if the needle or cannula on the syringe is changed.
- 4.4. Needles, cannulae and syringes are sterile, single-use items. These should not be reused for another patient or to access a medication or solution that might be used for a subsequent another patient.
- 4.5. Use single-dose vials for parenteral medications whenever possible. ~~Use the single-dose vial for only one patient.~~ Do not administer medications from single-dose vials or ampules to multiple patients or combine leftover contents for later use.
- 4.6. If multi-dose vials must be used, both the needle or cannula and syringe used to access the multi-dose vial must be sterile.
- 4.7. Do not keep multi-dose vials in the immediate patient treatment area. Store multi-dose vials in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Discard if sterility is compromised or questionable.
- 4.8. Observe expiration dates for multi-dose vials. Open injectable drugs must be discarded 28 days after first use, unless manufacturer indicates a different timeframe.¹

5. **SINGLE-USE DEVICES**

- 5.1. Single-use ~~intended~~ devices (disposable) must be used only once.
- 5.2. Do not reprocess or otherwise clean, disinfect or sterilize single-use items for reuse.

6. **STERILE FLUID MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1. Sterile fluids must be used immediately following the opening of the bottle or vial.
- 6.2. Once used for the first time, the container and remaining fluid must be discarded.

ASSISTANCE

¹ Please refer to the PHF policy "[Medication Labeling and Storage](#)" for further details.

Andra Dillard, MSN, PHN, RN, CIC, Infection Preventionist

REFERENCE

Code of Federal Regulations
Title 42, Section 482.42(a)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Safe Injection Practices to Prevent Transmission of Infections to Patients. Accessed at:
https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/ip07_standardprecaution.html

2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings. Accessed at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines-H.pdf>

Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
APIC Position Paper: Safe Injection, Infusion, and Medication Vial Practices in Health Care (2016). Accessed at:
https://www.apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Position_Statements/2016APICSIPPositionPaper.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Injection Safety Checklist. Accessed at:
http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/sites/default/files/upload/pdf/SIPC_InjectionSafetyChecklist.pdf

RELATED POLICIES

[Medication Labeling and Storage](#)

REVISION RECORD

DATE	VERSION	REVISION DESCRIPTION
DRAFT	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated increase clarity and accuracy of infection prevention terms.

Culturally and Linguistically Competent Policies

The Department of Behavioral Wellness is committed to the tenets of cultural competency and understands that culturally and linguistically appropriate services are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and needs of diverse individuals. All policies and procedures are intended to reflect the integration of diversity and cultural literacy throughout the Department. To the fullest extent possible, information, services and treatments will be provided (in verbal and/or written form) in the individual's preferred language or mode of communication (i.e. assistive devices for blind/deaf).