

Leaflet for injection providers



This leaflet is aimed at injection providers. It personalises the risk of needlestick injury. In many countries nurses will be the primary audience. The content is a mix of facts, practical directions for safe practice, and moving personal stories. You can find data on your country from WHO World Health Reports. Photos and images add impact. A bright and engaging colour layout is recommended, if resources permit.

Sample text:

Needlestick injury - it could happen to you!

Fact: Needlestick injuries happen when you are pricked, or 'stuck', with a needle already used on a patient. They expose you to a number of blood-borne pathogens that can cause fatal infections.

The most serious risks are:

- Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus
- HIV/ AIDS

Hep. B vaccination is advised for all healthcare workers. However no vaccine exists to protect against Hep. C or HIV, and there is no cure. Preventing needlestick injuries is the best way to avoid these deadly diseases!

Fact: Who is at risk from needle-stick injury?

Any one who may come into contact with needles is at risk, including nursing staff, doctors, laboratory workers, housekeeping staff and sanitation workers.

Fact: How common are needle-stick injuries?

Very! In our country, as many as X% of healthcare providers report they have had a needle-stick injury in the last 12 months.

Fact: DANGER! What is the most common way to get a needle-stick injury?

Needle-stick injuries are most often associated with the following activities:

- Recapping needles.
- Failing to dispose of used needles properly in a puncture-proof container (safety box).
- Transferring a body fluid after collection.

Fact: What is the risk of me becoming infected if I get stuck with a needle used on an infected patient?

The figures are easy to remember. It is the rule of '3s':

- For Hepatitis B the risk is approximately 30%
- For Hepatitis C it is approximately 3%
- For HIV it is approximately 0.3%

How can I protect myself?

Some dos and don'ts will help you and your co-workers.

- DO avoid the use of needles. Avoid giving an injection where there is an equivalent oral medication. It's much safer for you and your patient, and is just as or even more effective as treatment.
- DO avoid recapping needles. Place them immediately into a puncture-proof safety box.
- DO think ahead and plan safe handling and disposal of sharps.
- DO protect yourself with Hepatitis B vaccination.
- DO remind your colleagues about the dangers.

•DON'T overfill safety boxes (no more than 3/4 full).

•DON'T open or empty the safety box. It should be stored in a safe, dry place until it is finally disposed of properly (burying or burning for example).

•DON'T be afraid to report a needlestick injury.

Testing and treatment may be vital. You are an important resource and you deserve to be cared for too!

Remember, if you do have to give an injection, follow the three steps for a safe injection: use a syringe from a new, sealed packet for each patient. Use it once and disable it. Dispose of it safely immediately.