



SAFETY OF INJECTIONS

A glossary

<i>Abscess</i>	A focal collection of pus resulting from necrosis of tissue, sometimes observed at the site of an injection.
<i>Antigen</i>	Any substance which can generate the formation of a specific antibody (a protein created by the immune system to protect the body). For vaccines, the term antigen refers to a vaccine component that induces protection for one single disease (e.g., the measles antigen induces protection against measles).
<i>Auto-disable (A-D)¹ syringe</i>	A specially modified plastic syringe with a fixed needle which is automatically disabled after a single use.
<i>Syringe with reuse-prevention feature</i>	A specially modified plastic syringe that includes a mechanism to discourage reuse.
<i>Burden of disease</i>	The health and socio-economic cost of a given medical condition on a society.
<i>Bloodborne pathogens</i>	Infectious agents transmitted through exposure to blood or blood products.
<i>Cirrhosis</i>	A chronic scarring of the liver that can result in hepatic failure, jaundice, and death.
<i>Combination vaccine</i>	A vaccine that combines several antigens to induce protection against several diseases.
<i>Cost effectiveness</i>	Ratio comparing the results of a health care programme or procedure to cost of this programme or procedure.
<i>Single use syringe</i>	An all-plastic syringe designed for a single use, with a separate, steel needle. However, because there is no mechanism to prevent re-use, this type of syringe may in fact be used more than once.

¹ Referred to in the past as “Auto-Destruct”

<i>Disposal</i>	The collection, storage and subsequent destruction of all syringes and needles to avoid any needle stick injury.
<i>Hepatitis B</i>	Hepatitis caused by a virus and transmitted by exposure to blood or blood products or during sexual intercourse. It causes acute and chronic hepatitis. Chronic hepatitis B can cause liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.
<i>Hepatitis C</i>	Hepatitis caused by a virus and transmitted by exposure to blood or blood products. Hepatitis C is usually chronic and can cause cirrhosis and primary liver cancer.
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus, a virus mainly transmitted during sexual intercourse or through exposure to blood or blood products. HIV causes the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
<i>Infection control</i>	The activities aiming at the prevention of the spread of pathogens between patients, from health care workers to patients and from patients to health care workers in the health care setting.
<i>Injection</i>	The administration of a substance into the skin, subcutaneous tissue, muscle tissue or veins.
<i>Intramuscular injection</i>	An injection made into the body of a muscle.
<i>Intravenous injection</i>	An injection made into a vein.
<i>Jet injector</i>	A needle-free device that allows the injection of a substance through the skin under high pressure.
<i>Pathogen</i>	A microorganism capable of causing disease.
<i>Safe injection</i>	An injection that does not harm to the recipient, does not expose the health worker to any risk and does not result in waste that puts the community at risk.

<i>Safety (Sharps) Box</i>	A puncture proof/liquid proof container designed to hold used sharps safely during disposal and destruction.
<i>Safety syringe</i>	Modified, disposable plastic syringe designed so that the health care worker can disable it in such a way that the needle is protected and cannot be re-used.
<i>Septicaemia</i>	Severe generalised infection resulting from dissemination of pathogenic microorganisms and their toxins.
<i>Sharps</i>	Equipment that is used in skin piercing procedures, such as needles and lancets.
<i>Sterile</i>	Free from living micro-organisms, aseptic.
<i>Sterilizable syringe</i>	Either all plastic or all glass syringe with steel needle. This type of syringe is designed for re-use after proper cleaning and sterilization in a steam sterilizer or autoclave. The use of these syringes is associated with infection and is not recommended.
<i>Subcutaneous injection</i>	An injection delivered under the skin.
<i>Toxic shock syndrome</i>	An acute, sometimes fatal, intoxication by an infectious agent during which organ activity is blocked causing severe shock and hypotension.
<i>Vaccination</i>	The administration of vaccine either orally or by injection to produce active immunity to a disease.