



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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IN REPLY REFER TO

6010

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY NATIONAL CAPITOL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

Subj: POLICY GUIDANCE ON SYRINGE AND NEEDLE REUSE AT NAVY
MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES (MTFs)

Ref: (a) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Injection Safety Fact Sheet 'A Patient
Safety Threat – Syringe Reuse', Dec 2008
(b) CDC Standard Precautions Recommendations, Safe Injection Practices, 2007
(c) Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Medication Safety Alert
Newsletter, 'Considering insulin pens for routine hospital use? Consider
This...', 8 May 2008

1. This policy memorandum provides guidance and establishes Navy Medicine policy and responsibilities for injection safety and precautions. Per references (a) and (b), Navy Medicine will implement CDC guidelines related to reuse of needles or syringes in the healthcare setting. Specifically, anyone providing injections will never reuse a needle or syringe either from one patient to another or to withdraw medication from a vial.
2. Pen injectors fall within the boundaries of this policy. Reference (c) outlines potential issues with insulin pens. If an MTF decides to utilize pens, there will be a written guideline, as well as a formal orientation and ongoing competency assessment process for all staff involved in their use.
3. My point of contact for questions is Captain Linda Grant, at DSN 762-3704 or Linda.Grant@med.navy.mil and Captain Stephanie Simon, at DSN 762-3004 or Stephanie.Simon@med.navy.mil.

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