

NMCP Multi-Dose Sterile Parenteral (Injectable) Products Policy

I. When sterile parenteral (injectable) preparations packaged for multiple doses are used, it is MANDATORY to:

- (1) Upon initial entry, date the container with the exact EXPIRATION DATE which will be 28 days after the date of initial entry.
- (2) Store appropriately.
- (3) Discard per manufacturer's guidance WITH BEYOND USE DATING NOT TO EXCEED 28 DAYS.
- (4) Use a sterile device (needle AND syringe) each time a vial is accessed.
- (5) Refrigerate the container after opening if recommended by the manufacturer.
- (6) Clean the rubber diaphragm of vials with alcohol and allow surface to dry before inserting a device into the vial.
- (7) Discard container if touch contamination occurs.
- (8) Discard containers when suspected or visible contamination occurs.

II. This policy applies to all sterile products for parenteral (injectable) use with the exceptions of the following:

- a) insulin vials stored in automated dispensing cabinets (Pyxis machines). These vials are labeled by pharmacy with a 28 day expiration date when loaded into the automated dispensing cabinets.
- b) vaccines are exempted from the 28 day beyond use date. The CDC Immunization Program states that vaccines are to be discarded per the manufacturer's expiration date. The Joint Commission is applying this approach to all vaccines (whether a part of the CDC or state immunization program or purchased by healthcare facilities) with the understanding that the vaccines are stored and handled appropriately (correct temperature is maintained, frequency of temperature checks, etc.). Following the guidelines provided in the package insert is very important to assure integrity of the vaccine.

III. Containers of sterile saline or sterile water **for irrigation** will be dated and timed when opened. These bottles will be discarded after 24 hours. Product should be discarded immediately if touch contamination occurs.

Effective: 2006

Revised: 24 Oct 2008, 12 Aug 2010, 26 Oct 2012

Reference:

http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/jcfaqdetails.aspx?StandardsFaqId=143&ProgramId=1