

May 15, 2015

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals – Administration, Emergency, Infection Control, Occupational Health; Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Correctional Services, EMS

## **RE: UPDATED GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF MULTIDOSE VIALS**

On April 10, 2015, the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Infection Prevention and Control (PIDAC-IPC) updated the guidance on the use of multidose vials in *Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice*. This guidance was revised as a result of several inquiries from health care providers surrounding the use of multidose vials.

The use of multidose vials increases the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens and bacterial contamination. Single-dose vials are ALWAYS preferred.

Patient safety should be prioritized over cost when choosing between multidose and single-use medication vials.

- All needles are SINGLE PATIENT USE ONLY.
- All syringes are SINGLE PATIENT USE ONLY.
- NEVER re-enter a vial with a used needle OR used syringe.

Please refer to the website listed below for more information:

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/PIDAC/Pages/Infection-Prevention-and-Control-for-Clinical-Office-Practice-Multidose-Vials.aspx>

A PDF version of the updated guidance is also available and can be accessed at:

[http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/PIDAC/Documents/Updated\\_Guidance\\_Multidose\\_Vials\\_2015.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/PIDAC/Documents/Updated_Guidance_Multidose_Vials_2015.pdf)

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