FDA SAFETY ALERT:
Needlestick and Other Risks from Hypodermic Needles on Secondary I.V. Administration Sets -- Piggyback and Intermittent I.V.

April 16, 1992

Dear Colleague:

This is to alert you to the risk of needlestick injuries from the use of hypodermic needles as a connection between two pieces of intravenous (I.V.) equipment. The use of exposed hypodermic needles on I.V. administration sets or the use of syringes to access I.V. administration set ports or injection sites are unnecessary and should be avoided. Hypodermic needles should only be used in situations where there is a need to penetrate the skin.
IV catheter injury rates per 100,000 devices

Injuries per 100,000 devices

1986 * conventional 1 hospital
1993 ** conventional 3 hospitals
1993 ** safety 3 hospitals


Injuries per 100 occupied beds

Law

87 hospitals; total injuries = 24,440 (excludes injuries occurring before use of device)

Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act
November 6, 2000

The Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act
November 6, 2000

Injury Rates from Hollow-bore Needles:
Safety versus Conventional,
U.S. EPINet 1995-2006

* Market share (reflects $ spent/purchase volume) and is a proxy for conversion or use
Device Specific Injury Rates


Two areas where progress lags:
Operating Room
Non-hospital settings

OR versus Non-OR Injury Rates

National Market Share of Safety Phlebotomy Needles, U.S.
Compared to the Increasing Proportion of Injuries from Safety Phlebotomy Needles 1997-2007

Conventional phlebotomy needle injuries = 425  Safety phlebotomy needle injuries = 253
Syringes Used for Venous Blood Drawing: Percent of Injuries from Safety Syringes

- U.S. law: syringe injuries (venous blood draw), U.S. = 1,038
- Italy: syringe injuries (venous blood draw), Italy = 554

Syringes Used for Arterial Blood Drawing: Percent of Injuries from Safety Syringes

- U.S. law: syringe injuries (arterial blood draw), U.S. = 220
- Italy: syringe injuries (arterial blood draw), Italy = 179

Winged Steel Needles: Percent of Injuries from Safety Winged Steel Needles

- U.S. law: winged steel needle injuries, U.S. = 1,165
- Italy: winged steel needle injuries, Italy = 899

Phlebotomy Needle Injuries: Percent of Injuries from Safety Phlebotomy Needles

- U.S. law: phlebotomy needle injuries, U.S. = 681
- Italy: phlebotomy needle injuries, Italy = 193
Figure 7
Lancet Injuries: Percent of Injuries from Safety Lancets

U.S. law

Figure 9

Distance traveled
Look behind you to see how far you have come.