

Safe Injection Practices

If you're giving medicine by injection, it's very important to know what type of container you're drawing the medicine from: **a single-dose vial** or a **multiple-dose vial**.

You also must understand how to properly use the container you have. Misusing either type of container can be **dangerous**, with potential to cause serious consequences, including death.

Single-Dose Vials

A **single-dose vial (SDV)** is for use with a **single** patient for a **single** injection.

Safe Use of SDVs

After giving **one** dose from an SDV, **discard** the container. Do **not** save or use leftover medicine in the vial.

Using leftover medicine from an SDV can cause **infection**. (SDVs usually lack anti-microbial preservatives, so after the container has been opened, harmful bacteria can grow in the medicine.)

Multiple-Dose Vials

A **multiple-dose vial (MDV)** can be used for a limited period of time: **28 days** after it's been opened or punctured, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer.

An MDV is identified by a FDA-approved label.

Safe Use of MDVs

When you open or puncture an MDV to begin using the medicine inside, assign the container a **beyond-use date**. The beyond-use date should be 28 days after you start using the vial, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. **Do not use medicine from the MDV after the beyond-use date.**

An MDVs also has an **expiration date**. No matter when you started using the medicine, **do not use it beyond the expiration date**.

Before puncturing the rubber top of an MDV, **disinfect** it by wiping it with a **70-percent isopropyl alcohol solution**.

Every time you draw medicine from an MDV, use a **new needle** and a **new syringe**. Between uses, do **not** leave needles or other objects in the vial's rubber top. They could contaminate the medicine inside.

Container Sizes

SDVs and MDVs come in many shapes and sizes. **Do not assume** that a container is an SDV or an MDV based on its size or the amount of medicine it contains. To determine if your medicine is in an SDV or an MDV, **always check the label**.

When to Discard Vials

Discard an **SDV** after **one use**.

Discard an **MDV** after reaching the **beyond- use date** or **expiration date**.

With **any** vial, if you're not sure whether the medicine inside is still **sterile**, do **not** use the medicine. Discard the container.

Make An Appointment **651-290-8707** Refer a Patient **651-325-2200**

This information is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care providers. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or others on your health care team.

If you are a Gillette patient with urgent questions or concerns, please contact Telehealth Nursing at **651-229-3890**.