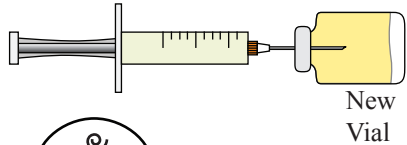


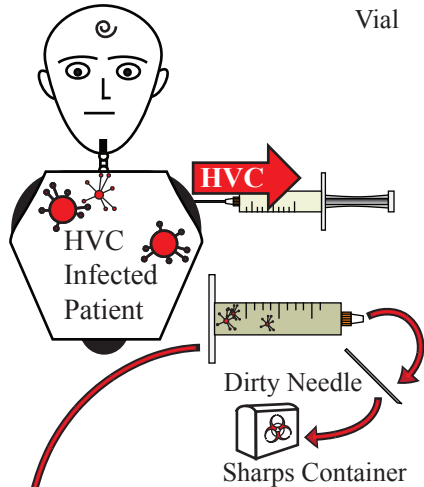
Unsafe Injection Practices & Disease Transmission

Reuse of syringes combined with the use of single-dose vials for multiple patients undergoing anesthesia can transmit infectious diseases. The syringe does not have to be used on multiple patients for this to occur.

1 A clean syringe and needle is used to draw the sedative from a new vial.



2 Anesthetic was injected into a patient who has been previously infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV). Backflow into the syringe contaminates the syringe with HCV.



3 The needle is replaced, but the syringe is reused to draw additional sedative from the same vial for the same patient, contaminating the vial with HCV.

4 A new needle and syringe are used for a second patient, but the contaminated vial is reused. Subsequent patients are now at risk for infection.

