

# Injecting equipment available at Needle and Syringe Programs

*a reference guide for workers*



## Fitpacks

### Fits

Fit refers to the needle & syringe as a whole unit



'Fitpacks' are designed to provide users with a safe place to put their used needles

Used syringes can be inserted into a slot inside the Fitpack which keeps them secure prior to disposal.

Some packs contain 1ml fits as well as cotton wool, swabs, ampoules of water & spoons

## Terumo



Most commonly used to inject Insulin and powdered drugs such as Heroin, Cocaine & Speed

1ml fits are often used for drugs that don't require a great deal of fluid to dissolve

This fit has a 27 gauge needle

## BD



Similar to the Terumo 1ml in its function, however the BD Ultra Fine has a 29 gauge needle which is the narrowest needle available

This is a more comfortable option for some users and causes less vein damage

However, may also be difficult to draw up some solutions

## Needles

A needle can also be called a pick or a tip

Needle gauge (g) refers to the size of the bore or hole in the needle

The higher the gauge, the thinner the needle (the smaller the hole)

Different gauge needles are used for different administration methods and different drug types

Needles attach to the end of a syringe (barrel)



### 18g (Pink)

18g are used for drawing up large volumes of liquid

**Not to be used for injection**



### 21g (Green)

- Used for intramuscular injections
- Longer Needles allow for deep muscle tissue penetration
- Used for injecting steroids



### 23g (Blue)

- Used for intramuscular injection with drugs such as steroids
- 23g best for users with a lower muscle mass



### 25g (Orange)

- Used for intravenous injections often used in combination with a 2ml or 5ml barrel to inject Methadone
- With steroids used for intramuscular injections



### 26g (brown)

- Used for intravenous injections
- With steroids generally used for sub-cutaneous injections



### 27g (Grey)

- Used for intravenous injections
- Narrowest needle generally stocked at NSPs

## Syringes (Barrels)



Syringes or barrels are used when a larger volume of fluid is to be injected  
Barrels may be used to inject drugs such as methadone, crushed & dissolved pills or steroids

## Cotton Wool



Used to filter the solution prior to injecting

Also used to clean up blood after an injection by holding the cotton wool on the injection site

## Tourniquets



Used to restrict bloodflow in order to locate a vein prior to injection

These latex tourniquets are for **single use only** and are disposable along with all other injecting equipment

## Water



Drugs need to be in liquid form to be injected

Water is used to dissolve pills and powders and to dilute methadone

These ampoules of 5 ml water are **single use only**, not to be re-used

## Spoons



Spoons are used for mixing and dissolving drugs prior to injection

Spoons are not sterile and should be swabbed before use

\* *These spoons are designed to take limited amounts of heat which assists in the dissolving of various powders and pills*

Spoons are intended for **single use only**

## Swabs



Swabs are used to clean the site prior to injection

Swabs should not be used to wipe the site after injection as this may stimulate further bleeding

**Sharing of any of this equipment can result in the transmission of viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B and C**

**For more information about**

**The Needle & Syringe Program in NSCCAHS  
General drug & alcohol issues & services (ADIS)**

**ph: 9858 7955 or ph: 9977 2666  
ph: 9361 8000**



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