

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
Release Date: March 4, 2011
Page 1 of 1

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

State Health Division Announces Patient Safety Awareness Week March 6-12, 2011

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division recognizes Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 6 through 12, by encouraging all Nevadans to become active participants in their healthcare. Patients who actively participate in their healthcare are informed and prepared. They are comfortable speaking up and asking questions of their healthcare providers.

Asking questions will not offend your healthcare provider. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one way to be a safe patient is to ask your healthcare provider, “Will there be a new needle, new syringe, and a new vial for this procedure or injection?” Healthcare providers should never reuse a needle or syringe on more than one patient.

Serious infections such as hepatitis can be passed to patients at the hand of a healthcare provider if unsafe injection practices are used. Since 1999, more than 125,000 patients in the United States have been notified of potential exposure to hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and HIV due to lapses in basic infection control practices. Many of these lapses involved healthcare providers reusing syringes, resulting in contamination of medication vials or containers which were used then on subsequent patients.

The *One & Only Campaign* is a national public health education and awareness initiative developed by the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) and the CDC to halt disease transmission caused by unsafe injection practices in United States healthcare facilities. By practicing the campaign's slogan: “One Needle, One Syringe, and Only One Time” for each and every injection, the risk of contracting hepatitis and other infections through medical injections will be greatly reduced.

To learn more about patient safety and ten ways to be a safe patient, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/PatientSafety/>.

To learn more about the One and Only Campaign, visit www.OneandOnlycampaign.org or contact the Nevada Safe Injection Practices Campaign Director at (775) 684-1043.

For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, go to <http://health.nv.gov>.

###



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Whitley".

Richard Whitley, Administrator
4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
NEVADA STATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER