



# Nevada State Health Division Technical Bulletin



**Topic: Risk of Transmission of Blood Borne Pathogens from Reuse of Single Use Only Endocavity Needle Guides**

**Section/Program: Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology, and Response/Office of Epidemiology**

**Date: March 15, 2011**

**TO: Health Care Providers**

The Nevada State Health Division is reminding health care providers that the reuse of single use only medical devices, namely endocavity needle guides, during the performance of prostate biopsies places the health, safety and welfare of the public at risk for blood-borne pathogen transmissions such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV.

Single use only medical devices are not designed to be used for more than one patient, even if the devices are cleaned between use due to potential blood and tissue contamination. This contamination may result in transmission of already existing blood-borne pathogens from a previous patient.

### **What are endocavity needle guides?**

Endocavity needle guides are attached to the exterior of an imaging instrument for viewing internal organs and structures. A needle passes through the guide, obtains a tissue sample and passes back through the needle guide to exit the body. The needle guide includes a slot configured to receive a needle shaft, the slot having an interior surface configured to retain the needle's shaft.

### **Recommendations and Information for Healthcare Professionals Regarding Single Use Only Endocavity Needle Guides**

- Endocavity needle guides labeled for single use only are meant for use **by a single patient only**, and are not to be shared between patients.
- The thorough cleaning of **single use** medical devices with the use of hot water, scrubbing off of blood and tissue matter or soaked in Cidex is **not** acceptable in any circumstance or situation.
- Though using disposable needles guides may minimize the risk of infection transmission in transrectal prostate needle biopsies, improper use of the device- including trying to clean and reuse the device should **never** occur.
- Safe injection practices must be implemented at all times as the same risks may exist with shared use of any reusable injection device.
- Hospitals and other healthcare facilities should review their policies and educate their staff regarding the use of single use only medical devices.

### **Resources**

Nevada State Health Division: [Health.nv.gov](http://Health.nv.gov)

Article on Needle Guides: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18400273>

The One and Only Campaign: [www.oneandonlycampaign.org](http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org)

**The Nevada State Health Division would like to thank and acknowledge those many providers throughout the state who strive for optimal patient safety through proper use and disposal of single use only items in their practice.**

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