



Did You Know?

Health PEI

Multi-Dose Vials

According to Accreditation Canada Medication Management High Priority Standard 13.9:

Multi-dose vials are used only for a single client in client service areas

(Exception: some medications, such as vaccines that may not be available in single-dose vials or prefilled syringes)



Using multi-dose vials for a single client reduces the risk of cross-contamination and the spread of infection.

Multi-dose vials typically contain an antimicrobial preservative to help prevent the growth of bacteria. The preservative has no effect on viruses and does not protect against contamination when health care personnel fail to follow safe injection practices.

Safe Use of Multi-Dose Vials

- ✓ Whenever possible, single-dose vials should be used over multi-dose vials.
- ✓ Only vials clearly labeled by the manufacturer for multiple dose use can be used more than once.
- ✓ Store multi-dose vials as recommended by the manufacturer. Check the label or consult the package insert for storage instructions.
- ✓ When a multi-dose vial is first used, **apply a patient label** and indicate the date and time of entry, date of expiry and initials of the person entering the vial. Include the manufacturer's recommended expiry or 28 days from first entry (whichever comes first).
- ✓ Discard any multi-dose vials that have been previously entered but not labeled appropriately, or if they have been contaminated or are suspected of being contaminated.
- ✓ Clean rubber stopper with 70% alcohol and let air dry before each entry. **A new sterile needle and syringe must be used each time the vial is entered**