

# Fits, tips, & packs

A guide to the equipment available from  
the Queensland Needle and Syringe Program

**EXCHANGE**  
**SUPPLIES**  

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MAKING INJECTING SAFER

**For a FREE app listing all the Queensland Needle and Syringe Program services (and useful information about safer injecting and blood-borne viruses) scan this QR code.**



Or search 'QLD Needle & Syringe Program' in Google Play or the Apple Store.

**Queensland Needle and Syringe Program (QNSP) delivers free and subsidised injecting equipment to people who inject drugs from:**

- Primary NSP services that offer a large range of free equipment, safer injecting advice, hep B vaccination, HIV and hep C testing and treatment, referral and naloxone.
- Secondary NSP services that give out free pre-made packs of equipment;
- 800 participating pharmacies who sell subsidised packs for \$3; and
- Vending machines which provide 24 hour access to subsidised packs, for around \$2 each.

**Queensland Clean Needle Helpline: 1800 633 353 (freecall), available 24 hours a day.**

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## **Which needle?**

**The best needle to use is the shortest, thinnest one that will reach the vein, and inject with as little tissue damage as possible.**

### **You can preserve your veins by:**

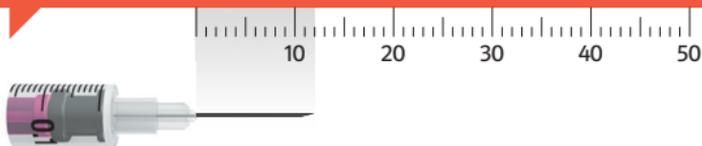
- not letting go of the syringe once the needle has gone through the skin;
- reducing bending of the needle to a minimum;
- changing needles if finding a vein doesn't happen first time; and
- keeping steady while you inject.

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## **1ml fixed needle syringes**

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# 29G 1/2 inch Unisharp<sup>FIXED</sup> [ Ø 0.33mm | 12mm ]



## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY NSP SERVICES

Unisharp 29G fixed needle syringes are used for injecting into the small veins of the arms, hands, and also sometimes legs and feet.

The 29G needle can also be used for injecting in bigger veins in the arm too, and the finer needle may cause less vein damage than a 27G or thicker needle.

The needle length for 1ml fixed syringes is 12mm [1/2 inch].

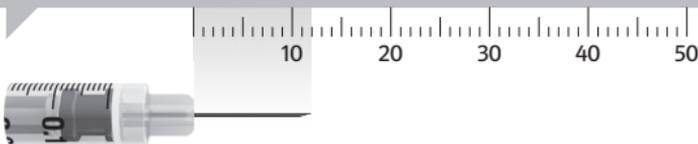
Some primary needle and syringe program services also stock the Terumo 29G fixed needle syringe.

The Unisharp coloured syringes have been designed for people who inject drugs.

The colours are a visual system that makes it possible to tell which syringe belongs to which person, and prevents accidental sharing of re-used equipment.



## 27G 1/2 inch Unisharp<sup>FIXED</sup> [ Ø 0.40mm | 12mm ]



### ALL NSP SERVICES

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# Fixed needle syringes are 'low dead space syringes'

## Low dead space syringes

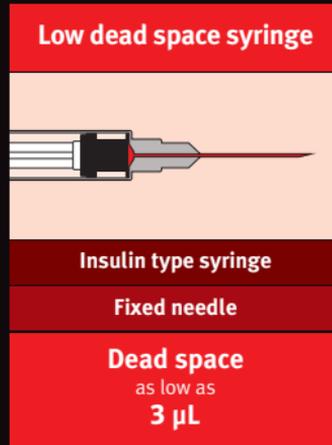
Insulin type syringes – because the needle is fixed during manufacture – have a very low dead space. This means that there is very little blood in them after injecting.

**When they have been used by someone who has HIV or hepatitis the reduced amount of blood means that there is less virus in them, and that it will survive for a shorter time.**

This is another reason why this type of low dead space syringe is recommended for all injecting drug users.

Unfortunately not everyone who injects can use low dead space syringes – they are not so good for people who can't get a vein quickly, and so sometimes blunt their needle, and people injecting larger volumes of liquid.

The Unisharp 1ml fixed syringe comes with plungers in a range of colours to help prevent accidental sharing.



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## **Barrels for detachable tips**

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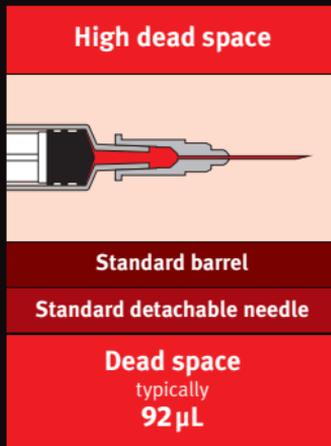
## Barrels for detachable tips are ‘high dead space syringes’

### High dead space syringes

The dead space is the space beyond the plunger that is filled with blood after the injection.

Barrels made for detachable needles have a large dead space that holds more blood, which makes them more likely to transmit blood-borne viruses if shared.

If you use high dead space barrels with detachable needles, be extra careful if re-using them: **they need extra rinsing with bleach and/or water to remove the blood both before and after use to reduce the risk of blood-borne virus transmission.**

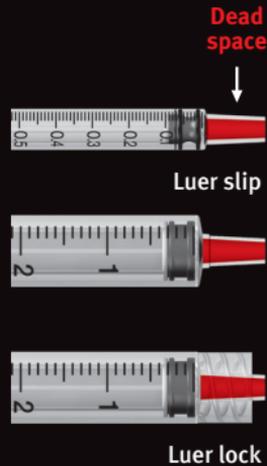


# Slip and lock

## Luer slip and Luer lock

Luer slip and Luer lock fittings allow for needles to be removed and changed during the injecting process.

Luer slip barrels have a push fit which grips tightly, and Luer lock barrels have a thread to secure the needle.



# 1 ml Luer slip barrel

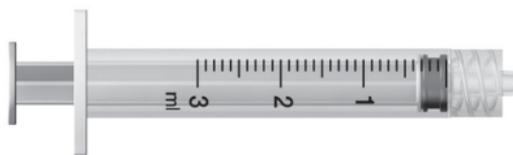


## PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Used by people who need to change the needle because they can't find a vein, and often blunt needles looking for a vein.

Swapping needles is easier than backloading the drugs into a new fixed needle syringe.

## 3ml Luer lock barrel



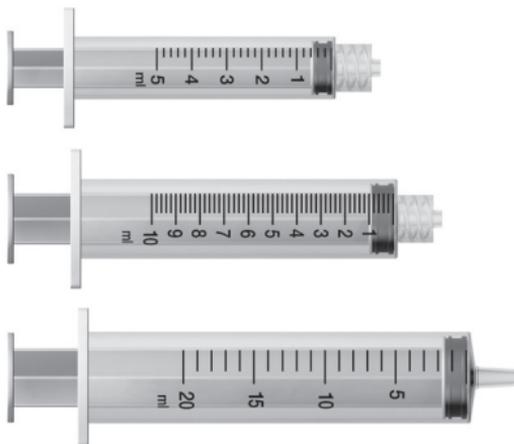
### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Used for larger volume injections, and is used by many people injecting pills so that they have enough water to dissolve all the drug. It is also commonly used by people who are using wheel filters.

Some people use a 3 ml barrel because they find it easier to hold than a 1 ml fixed.

The 3 ml barrel is also the main barrel used by people injecting anabolic steroids.

## High volume barrels [5 ml, 10 ml, and 20 ml]



### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

The 5 ml, 10 ml, and 20 ml barrels are mainly used by people injecting oral medicines such as methadone.

The 5 ml and 10 ml barrels are also used by people who need more than 3 ml of water to dissolve their pills.

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## **Tips | Detachable needles**

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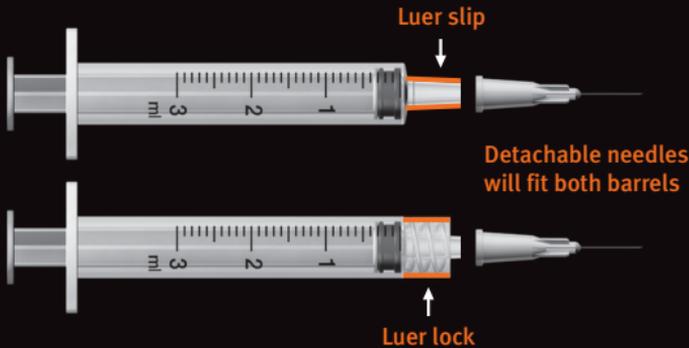
# Tips

## Needle length

The stated length of the needle can either be the visible length, or the **total** length of the needle from end to end – including the portion of the needle that is in the plastic. This means that the actual needle length can vary, and may be slightly shorter than the measurement stated. Needles are measured in both inches and millimetres.

## Needle fit

The exact angles inside the hub of needles that allow them to grip onto the barrel with friction alone are known as a Luer slip fitting. Barrels made for detachable needles are called Luer slip barrels.



Luer lock barrels have a threaded collar that screws the needle onto the tapered end, giving extra security.

## Needle gauge (the needle diameter [Ø]/thickness)

The gauge number refers to the number of times the steel has been stretched to make it thinner: so the **bigger the number**, the more it has been stretched, and **the thinner it is**.

The word gauge is always shortened in Queensland to just the letter 'G'.

The gauges used for injecting needles range from • 29G (the thinnest) to • 23G. Each gauge is allocated a colour so that people can tell which is which.

•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>29G</b>	<b>27G</b>	<b>26G</b>	<b>25G</b>	<b>23G</b>	<b>21G</b>	<b>19G</b>	<b>18G</b>	
0.33mm	0.40mm	0.45mm	0.50mm	0.60mm	0.80mm	1.10mm	1.2mm	
Unisharp fixed	Grey	Brown	Orange	Blue	Green*	Cream	Pink	
Injecting					Drawing up			

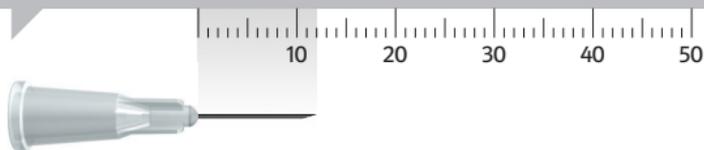
\* See page 23

## Needle bore (the hole down the middle)

The gauge **only** describes the outer diameter, not the hole down the middle (the bore) which can vary.

In general the thicker the needle, the larger the bore but some of the thinner needles have a smaller bore so that the wall thickness, and strength, can be maintained.

## 27G 1/2 inch grey [ $\emptyset$ 0.40mm | 12mm ]

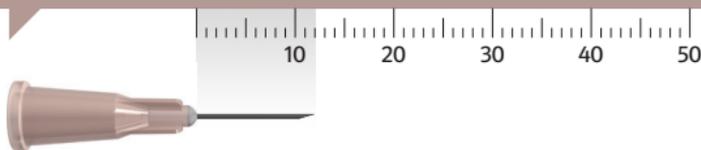


### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

The 12mm grey needle is mainly used for injecting into the main veins of the arm, it can also be used for injecting into the small veins of the hands, and sometimes into the legs and feet.

The grey 27G is the finest needle available from the primary NSP services. If moving from a 1ml fixed needle syringe, this is the closest separate needle available.

## 26G 1/2 inch brown [ Ø 0.45mm | 12mm ]



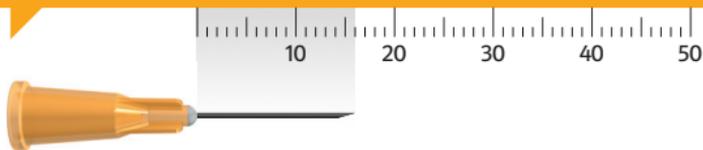
### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

The 12mm brown needle is used for injecting into the main veins of the arms, and is fine enough to inject into smaller veins.

If you need a thicker needle than the Unisharp fixed so that you can inject through scar tissue, or into deeper riskier veins, the 12mm brown needle is less of a step up the risk ladder than a move to the 16mm orange needle.

Some people use this needle because they are injecting pills and find finer needles block. However, it would be better for their veins if they filtered the solution so they could use a finer needle.

## 25G $\frac{5}{8}$ inch orange [ $\varnothing$ 0.5mm | 16mm ]



### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Mainly used for injecting into the veins of the arm, when there is significant scar tissue to push through.

Some groin injectors, especially those of light build, where the femoral vein is just below the surface and not scarred or pushed back by long term injecting, may be able to use a 16mm orange needle to reach the vein.

Care must be taken when using an orange needle for injection in the groin to avoid movement or bending of the needle that could break it.

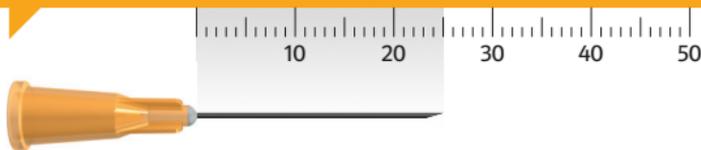
**There are two lengths of orange needle stocked by the NSP: short orange (this one) and long orange, so make sure you get the right one.**



**Although some insulin syringes come with orange caps, they are not orange needles.**

**Insulin syringe needles are thinner than the orange detachable Luer slip needle.**

## 25G 1 inch orange [ Ø 0.5mm | 25mm ]



### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

This needle is too long to use for surface veins.

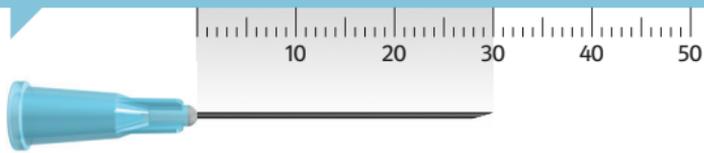
Sometimes used for the injection of anabolic steroids.

It can be used to inject into deep veins, including the femoral vein. Whilst still damaging, this will be less damaging than the thicker blue or green needles.

Injecting in the groin is always dangerous: try a short thin needle to find surface veins instead.

Care must be taken when using an orange needle for injection into deep veins to avoid movement or bending of the needle that could break it.

## 23G 1¼ inch blue [ Ø 0.6mm | 30mm ]

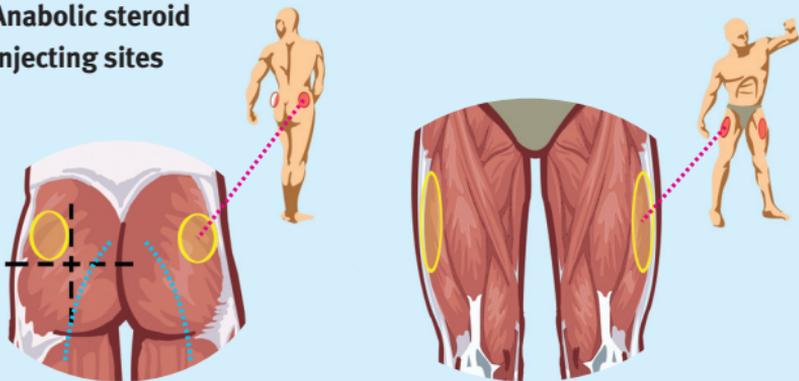


### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

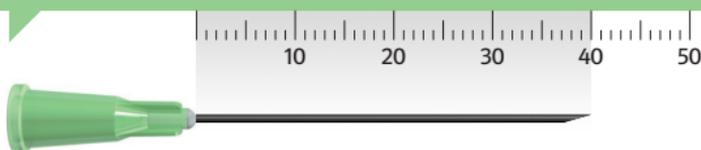
Is sometimes used for drawing up water soluble drugs, but mainly used for the injection of anabolic steroids into muscles.

The blue needle is also used by some people to inject into the femoral vein in the groin.

### Anabolic steroid injecting sites



## 21G 1½ inch green [ Ø 0.8mm | 40mm ]



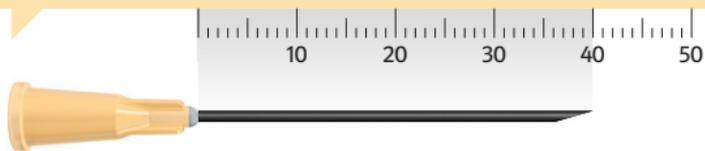
### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Large bore drawing up needle, mainly used for drawing oil-based anabolic steroids into a barrel.

After drawing up, most people change to a blue needle for the actual intramuscular injection.

Some people injecting anabolic steroids have to use this needle for injection if the liquid is too thick to inject through a blue needle.

## 19G 1½ inch cream [ Ø 1.10mm | 40mm ]

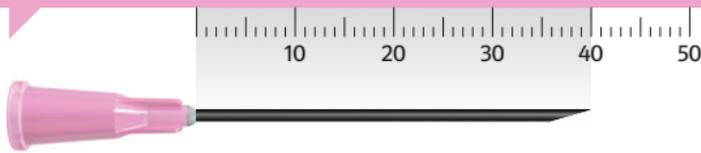


### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Large bore drawing up needle, mainly used for drawing oil-based anabolic steroids into a barrel.

After drawing up, people usually change to a blue needle for the actual intramuscular injection.

## 18G 1½ inch pink [ Ø 1.20 mm | 40 mm ]



### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Large bore drawing up needle, used for drawing oil-based anabolic steroids into a barrel.

After drawing up, people usually change to a blue needle for the actual intramuscular injection.

There is a risk of this type of needle punching rubber from the seal of a multi-dose into the solution.

The pink needle is also used by people injecting other drugs when drawing up prior to using a wheel filter.

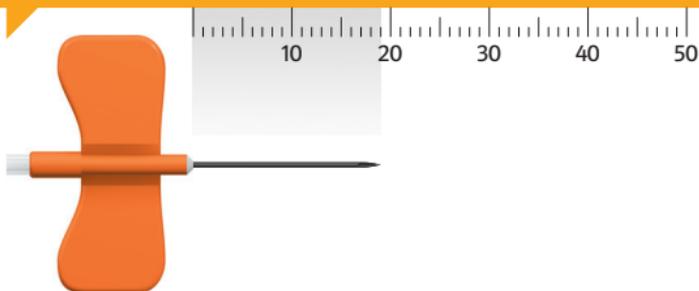


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## **Winged infusion set (butterfly)**

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## 25G <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch orange [ Ø 0.5mm | 19mm ]



### PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

25G butterfly, mainly used by people injecting large volumes they are also used by people who have run out of veins that they can access with a syringe.

Once a vein has been located, care should be taken to keep the needle still so that it doesn't damage the vein.

Winged infusion sets should not be left in the skin for a long period of time because they provide a direct route for bacteria to get under the skin and cause infections.

It is important not to overload the vein, so inject slowly.

Some people put some air in the barrel to push the drug through the tubing at the end of the injection. Another solution is to flush the tubing through with water after the drug injection is finished.

Because butterflies are expensive, and because they are associated with high-risk multiple injection attempts, the number of butterflies you can collect at one time is limited to 20.

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## **Alcohol wipes | Filters**

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# Alcohol wipes



## ALL NSP SERVICES

Alcohol wipes can reduce the risk of skin infections if they are used correctly.

For maximum effect, **swab once, in one direction** over the injecting site, and leave to dry.

If you rub up and down, you will drag skin cells, dirt, and bacteria back over the injecting site.

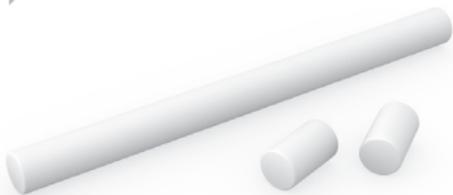
Allow the skin to dry naturally because the effect of the alcohol occurs when the alcohol is partially absorbed by the cell walls of bacteria, as the alcohol evaporates, it destroys the cell walls, and the bacteria die.

Any physical drying of the skin prevents this happening, and also runs the risk of contaminating the injecting site with bacteria from the thing that is being used to do the drying.

**Washing the injecting site with soap and water, and dabbing dry before swabbing reduces the risk of infection getting under the skin or into the blood.**

Swabs can also be used to clean the spoon before use, and the top of a multi-dose steroid vial.

# Filters



## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES

The filters are supplied to enable people to remove particles from their injection that could block the needle, and if injected would lodge in the lungs, and can, over time cause lung damage.

These strips of 5 filters in a plastic outer tube are manufactured for filtering cigarette tar – to prevent fibres getting into your injection, they should be cut rather than pulled apart to reduce the number of fibers injected.

The filters supplied by QNSP are 95% cellulose acetate, and are guaranteed fibreglass free.

Handling them will add bacteria to the injection – keep the bacterial load as low as possible by avoiding handling them.

**If you do have to touch them, use an alcohol swab to clean your fingertips first**

Many people don't use the end filters – but prefer to squeeze one of the middle ones out of the plastic wrapper as they will have less bacterial contamination, especially if the strip has been in a pocket.



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## **Cost-recovery items**

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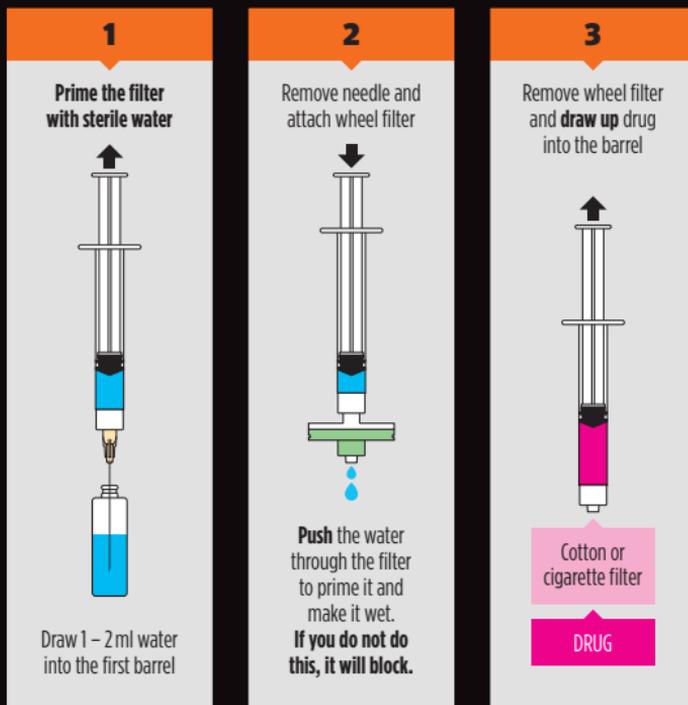
**Some primary NSPs in Queensland buy in equipment that they sell on a cost-recovery basis.**

**Not all primary NSPs will have all of this equipment. Prices may vary.**

# How to use a wheel filter

## To use a wheel filter you need:

- 2 x 3 ml barrels (or larger)
- 1 x drawing up needle
- 1 x needle for injecting
- 10ml water ampoule, or cooled boiled water
- Spoon
- Cotton or cigarette filter
- Your drug



**4**

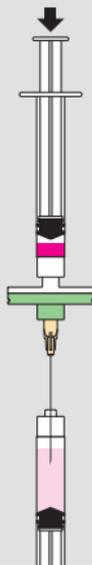
Reattach wheel filter  
and drawing up needle



**Leave a small amount  
of air in the barrel**  
so that when you have  
finished there is no drug  
left in the dead space  
above the filter.

**5**

Transfer drug  
to second barrel



**6**

Attach injecting needle  
to second barrel  
ready for use



## 5.0 micron – brown



### SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Brown wheel filters are available from some primary NSP services costing around \$1.20 each (prices vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost).

**The 5.0 micron brown filter will take out any powder or pill particles in your mix that, if injected, could lodge in the lungs, accumulating over time and causing damage.**

Removing particles does not reduce the amount of drug in the liquid – the drug will have already dissolved out of the powder.

When injecting pills such as:

- MS Contin;
- Oxycontin;
- Buprenorphine;
- Pethedine;
- Benzodiazepines (such as valium, mogadon, and temazepam); and
- Ecstasy

it is necessary to pre-filter with the brown filter before using the green or blue filter, otherwise they will get blocked by the particles and fillers.

## 0.8 micron – green



### SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Green wheel filters are available from some primary NSP services costing around \$1.20 each (prices vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost).

**The 0.8 micron green filter will take out tiny powder or pill particles in your mix that, if injected, could lodge in the lungs, accumulating over time and causing damage.**

Removing particles does not reduce the amount of drug in the liquid – the drug will have already dissolved out of the powder.

The 0.8 micron green filter is used to remove the finer particles from solutions that have been pre-filtered through a brown filter. It can be used as a filter for pills that can be ground up very small:

- Physeptone;
- Dexamphetamine; and
- Ritalin.

This will create a particle free solution that you can then pass through a blue filter to remove the bacteria.

## 0.2 micron – blue



### SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Blue wheel filters are available from some primary NSP services costing around \$1.20 each (prices vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost).

Methamphetamines, heroin, and cocaine can be filtered with a blue wheel filter without pre-filtering.

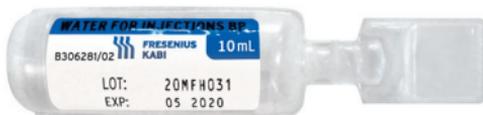
**The 0.2 micron blue filter will remove all the particles and bacteria from the liquid, and leave your mix completely clear, reducing the risk of a dirty hit and infections getting into the bloodstream.**

This filter cannot remove viruses such as HIV and hepatitis.

If the drug you are injecting has been in someone's mouth, then using a blue wheel filter is essential because the mouth is full of bacteria that can cause serious health problems – including infections in the heart.

Removing particles does not reduce the amount of drug in the liquid – the drug will have already dissolved out of the powder.

# Water for Injections 10 ml ampoule



## SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

Water ampoules cost around 20c each from the services that stock them. Price may vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost.

Water for injections from a freshly opened ampoule is the best water to use for drug preparation: it is completely sterile and therefore free from bacteria.

Ideally, once open you should just take what you need and throw the rest away because once the top is open, bacteria can get in and the water is no longer sterile. If you are going to keep it, if you can, put it in a fridge.

If you can't afford to buy the water in ampoules, mains tap water that has been boiled in a kettle and cooled is also sterile.

# Tourniquets

## How tourniquets work

Tourniquets can make veins swell up with more blood in them, making them easier to find and get a needle into...

**BUT** they can cause problems too: if they're too tight they can make the veins smaller, and if they're not released in time they can cause drugs to come out of the vein and into the surrounding tissue reducing effect, and causing infections and vein collapse.

### This section explains how they:

- **work;**
- **can help;** and
- **can cause problems.**

## How they work

The blood is pumped, under pressure from the heart, into the arm through artery... but on the return, through the veins, the blood is at lower pressure. The pressure is so much lower, there are even valves to stop blood running backwards.

Tourniquets work if they are wrapped around the upper arm tight enough to slow blood flow in the veins out of the arm, but not so tight that blood flow in through the artery is restricted.

## How they help

The purpose of the tourniquet is to slow the flow of the blood through the veins, so they fill up and get bigger, making it easier to find with the needle.

## How they can cause problems

### A tourniquet can cause problems if it:

1. **Is overtightened:** for the tourniquet to work, the artery has to be unrestricted pumping as much blood as possible into the arm: if the tourniquet is too tight, it'll slow the flow of blood into the arm, making the veins smaller, and harder to inject into.
2. **Is not released before injection:** the drug you are injecting is going into the vein you have blocked with the tourniquet to fill it with blood... if you inject before you release the tourniquet there is nowhere for the drug to go, and it, and blood can leak out of the vein around the needle causing bruising, infection, and drug in the tissue that takes longer to absorb
3. **Causes you to let go of the syringe before you inject:** if you have to let go of the syringe to release the tourniquet, movement of the needle is likely to damage the vein.

In many ways a tie, belt, or bicycle inner tube make a better tourniquet than the ones you can buy from the NSP.

## Elasticated tourniquet (multi-coloured)



### SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

This tourniquet costs around \$12. Price may vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost.

This tourniquet was designed for medical use, and so is difficult to operate one handed.

It is better if you can get someone else to release the tourniquet for you once you are in the vein, as this means you don't have to let go of your syringe while you press the button to release it.

Use is not completely straight forward, so practice using it before you've got a syringe full of drugs and are in a hurry!

## Variable tourniquet (blue)



### SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

This tourniquet costs around \$5. The price may vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost.

This tourniquet was designed for medical use, and so is difficult to operate one handed.

A half press of the button releases the tension enough to allow you to inject, a full press releases it completely, sometimes quite violently, so it's best to wait until after the injection.

It is better if you can get someone else to release the tourniquet for you once you are in the vein, as this means you don't have to let go of your syringe while you press the button to release it.

Use is not completely straight forward, so practice using it before you've got a syringe full of drugs and are in a hurry!

## BD Vacutainer stretch tourniquet (blue)



### SOME PRIMARY NSP SERVICES

This simple stretch latex tourniquet costs \$1. The price may vary as some services have funds they can use to subsidise the cost.

If you can develop a technique of tying the tourniquet so that you can release it by moving your arm, or pulling a knot with your teeth so that you don't have to let go of the syringe, this will cause less damage.

So practice using it before you've got a syringe full of drugs and are in a hurry!

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## Service and pharmacy packs

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To make picking up enough equipment easy, Queensland Needle and Syringe Program makes up packs that can be picked up free from NSP services, and bought at subsidised rates for \$3 from one of the 800 pharmacies that participate in the Needle and Syringe Program in Queensland

Always make sure you get enough – if you might need more than one pack, get the extra. If you might need a bigger pack, take it.

Primary services have packs for people to collect, but can also customise them, and make up bags of exactly what you need.

# 20 pack – 20 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

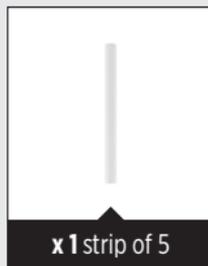
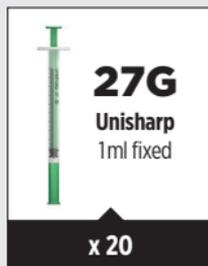
MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES, AND PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

## Contents:

- 20** 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 40** Alcohol wipes
- 5** Filters
- 1** 400 ml disposable container
- 1** Small brown paper bag

The NSP wants you to have enough syringes so you have a new clean one for every injection – the 20 pack is a quick easy way to pick up enough syringes.

The pack will usually have 20 syringes of the same colour, so if you might be injecting with other people, pick up a different pack for them at the same time.



# 5 pack – 5 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES, AND PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

## Contents:

- 5 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 10 Alcohol wipes
- 2 Filters
- 1 200 ml disposable container
- 1 Small brown paper bag

A handy small pack of five 1ml syringes for people who inject occasionally, and/or are able to pop into the NSP frequently.

The pack will have five syringes of the same colour, so if you might be injecting with other people, pick up a different pack for them at the same time.



**27G**  
**Unisharp**  
1ml fixed

x 5



REYNARD  
alcohol prep pads  
Disinfectant and antiseptic

x 10



2 filters



x 1



# 5 pack – 5 x 3 ml barrels

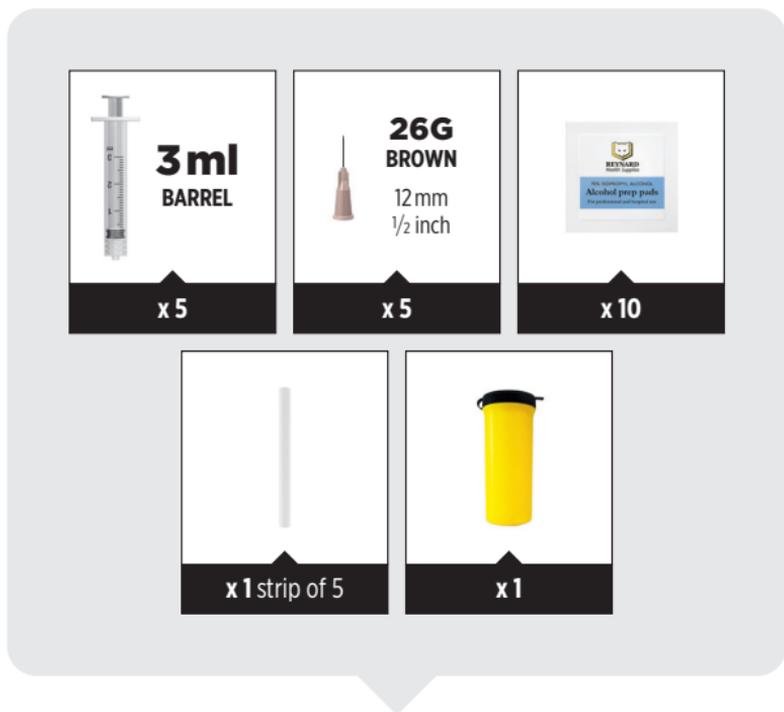
MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES, AND PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

## Contents:

- 5 3 ml barrels
- 5 26G 12mm [ 1/2 inch ] brown needles
- 10 Alcohol wipes
- 5 Filters
- 1 200 ml disposable container
- 1 Small brown paper bag

Primary services are able to swap the 26G needles for the thinner 27G needle – just ask.

A handy small pack of five 3 ml barrels for people who inject occasionally, and/or are able to pop into the NSP frequently.



# 5 pack – 5 x 5 ml barrels

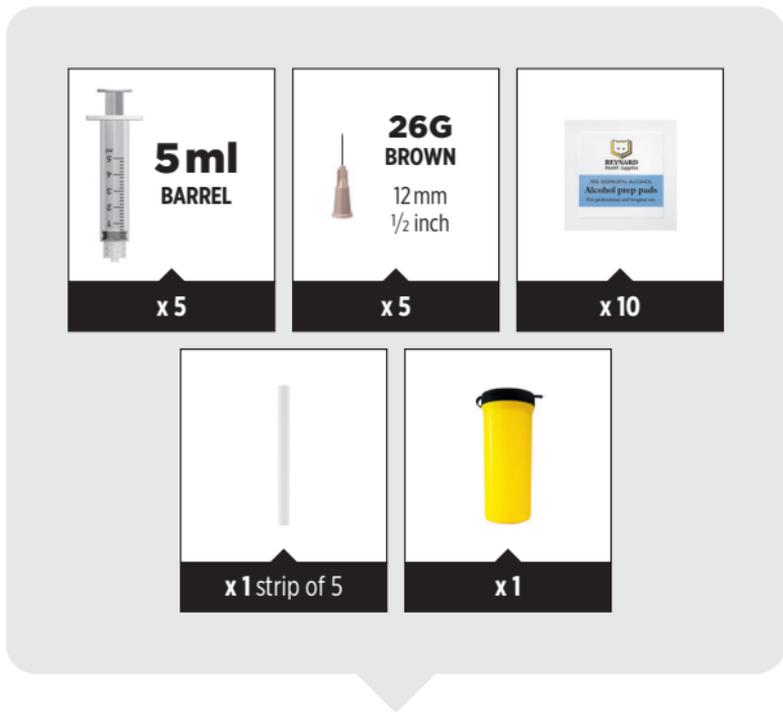
MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES, AND PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

## Contents:

- 5 5 ml barrels
- 5 26G 12mm [ 1/2 inch ] brown needles
- 10 Alcohol wipes
- 5 Filters
- 1 200 ml disposable container
- 1 Small brown paper bag

Primary services are able to swap the 26G needles for the thinner 27G needle – just ask.

A handy small pack of five 5 ml barrels for people who inject occasionally, and/or are able to pop into the NSP frequently.



# 20 pack – 20 x 3 ml steroid pack

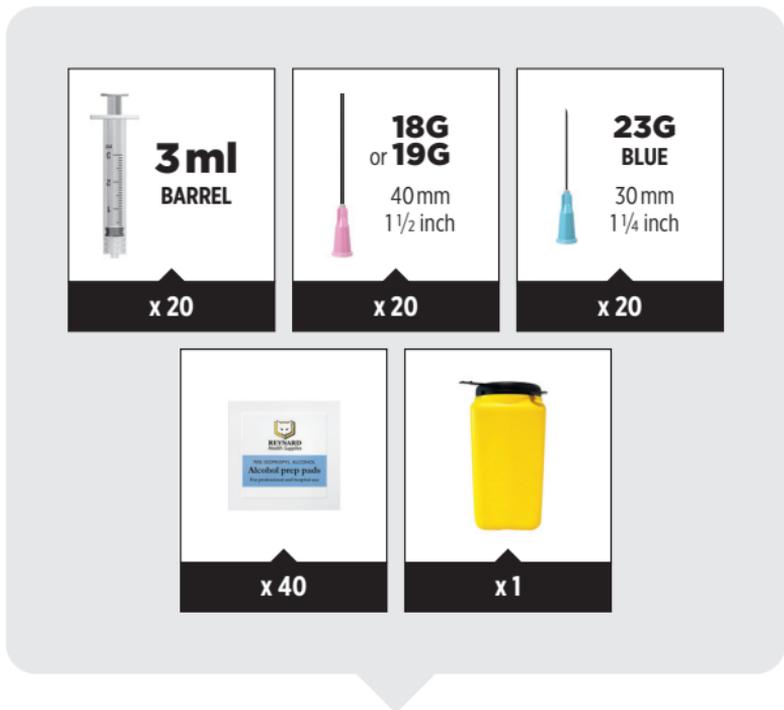
MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES, AND PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

## Contents:

- 20** 3 ml barrels
- 20** 18G 40 mm [ 1½ inch ] pink needles
- 20** 23G 30 mm [ 1¼ inch ] blue needles
- 40** Alcohol wipes
- 1** 1.4 litre disposable container
- 1** Large brown paper bag

Some primary services make up their steroid packs with 19G drawing up needles.

At primary sites you can ask for the blue 23G needle to be swapped for a thinner orange 25G 1 inch needle if the oil you are injecting is thin enough to go through it.



# 10 pack – 10 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

## MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES

### Contents:

- 10 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 20 Alcohol wipes
- 5 Filters
- 1 200 ml or 400 ml fittube disposable container.
- 1 Small brown paper bag

The NSP wants you to have enough syringes so you have a new clean one for every injection – the 10 pack is a quick easy way to pick up enough syringes. The pack will contain 10 syringes, they will usually all be the same colour, so if you might be injecting with other people, pick up a different pack for them at the same time.

The Unisharp coloured syringes have been designed for people who inject drugs. The colours are a visual system that makes it possible to tell which syringe belongs to which person, and prevents accidental sharing of re-used equipment.





**27G**  
**Unisharp**  
1ml fixed

x 10



x 20



x 1 strip of 5



x 1



## 2 pack – 2 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

### MOST PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SERVICES

#### Contents:

- 2 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 4 Alcohol wipes
- 1 Filter
- 1 200 ml disposable container
- 1 Small brown paper bag

The two pack is a handy pack for you to collect and use.

The syringes will be the same colour, so if you might be injecting with someone else, get a separate pack for them.



**27G**  
**Unisharp**  
1ml fixed

x 2



x 4



x 1



x 1



# 50 pack – 50 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

## SOME PRIMARY SERVICES

### Contents:

- 50** 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 80** Alcohol wipes
- 50** Filters
- 1** 1.4 or 1.8 litre bin
- 1** Large brown paper bag

The NSP wants you to have enough syringes so you have a new clean one for every injection – the 50 pack is a quick easy way to pick up enough syringes.

The pack will usually have 50 syringes of the same colour, so if you might be injecting with other people, pick up a different pack for them at the same time.

Some primary services have packs of 50 made up, others you just ask for what you need when you arrive.



**27G**  
**Unisharp**  
1ml fixed

x 50



x 80



x 10 strips of 5



x 1





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## Vending machine packs

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# 5 pack – 5 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

## MOST VENDING MACHINES

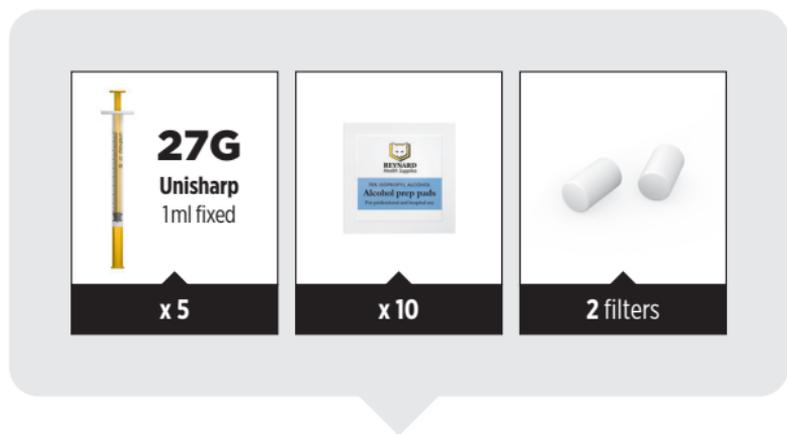
### Contents:

- 5** 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 10** Alcohol wipes
- 2** Filters
- 1** Needle Dispensing Machine (NDM)  
flat disposable container

These packs vend for \$2.

The vending 'fitpack' 5 pack is a handy pack for you to collect and use.

The syringes will be the same colour, so if you might be injecting with someone else, if you can, get a separate pack for them.



# Fittube 5 pack – 5 x 1 ml fixed (27G)

## MOST VENDING MACHINES

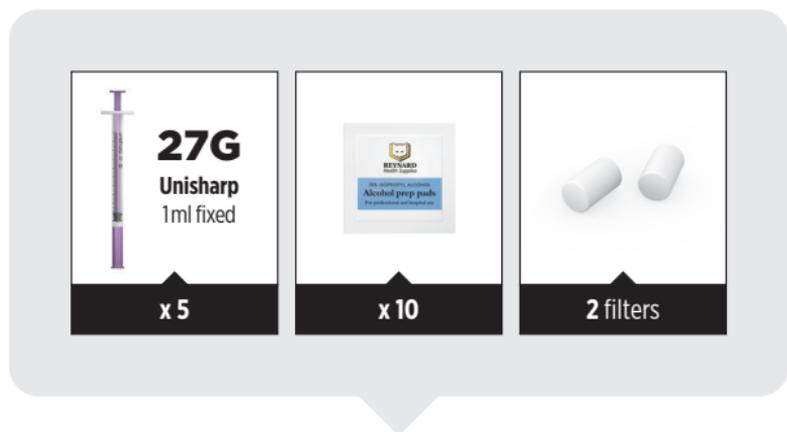
### Contents:

- 5** 1 ml 27G Unisharp syringes
- 10** Alcohol wipes
- 2** Filters
- 1** 400 ml 'fittube' disposable container

These packs vend for \$2.

The vending 'fittube' 5 pack is a handy pack for you to collect and use.

The syringes will be the same colour, so if you might be injecting with someone else, if you can, get a separate pack for them.



# Fitpack – 5 x 3 ml barrels

## MOST VENDING MACHINES

### Contents:

- 5** 3 ml barrels
- 5** 26G 12mm [ 1/2 inch ] brown needles
- 10** Alcohol wipes
- 2** Filters
- 1** Needle Dispensing Machine (NDM)  
flat disposable container

These packs vend for \$2.

The vending 'fitpack' pack of five 3 ml barrels is a handy pack for you to collect and use.

The bin has a sliding central plastic wall so that you can store both new and used barrels in it.



**3 ml**  
**BARREL**

**x 5**



**26G**  
**BROWN**  
12 mm  
1/2 inch

**x 5**



**x 10**



**2 filters**



# Fittube 5 pack – 5 x 3 ml barrels

## MOST VENDING MACHINES

### Contents:

- 5** 3 ml barrels
- 5** 26G 12mm [ 1/2 inch ] brown needles
- 10** Alcohol wipes
- 2** Filters
- 1** 400 ml disposable container

These packs vend for \$2.

The vending 'fittube' pack of five 3ml barrels is a handy pack for you to collect and use.



**3 ml**  
**BARREL**

**x 5**



**26G**  
**BROWN**  
12 mm  
1/2 inch

**x 5**



**x 10**



**2 filters**



# Wheel filter and water pack

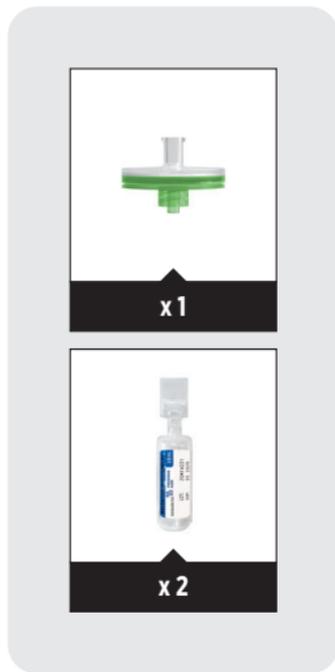
SPECIAL VENDING MACHINES AT SOME PRIMARY SERVICES

## Contents:

- 1 0.8 micron filter
- 2 10ml water amps

The machine will usually vend 1 x 0.8 micron filter and 2 x 10ml water amps for \$2.

Because of the difficulties of finding machines to dispense things that are small and light, and the problems having cash transactions at the NSP counters can cause, some services have vending machines that you put \$2 in and get a token, which you can exchange for the filter and water amps at the counter.



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## Cleaning syringes

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**If you can, always use a new sterile needle and syringe.**

If you are going to re-use a needle or syringe, clean it like this:



**Get two clean cups.**

**Fill them with clean water.**

(do not use boiling water – it can make the blood clot)

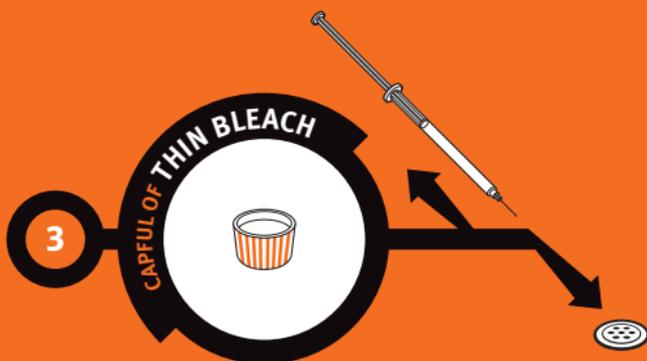
**Pour out a capful of thin bleach or drop a chlorine tablet into another mug of clean water.**



**Draw up water from the first cup.**

(Fill the syringe completely to rinse and clean it)

**Empty the syringe into the sink.**



**Draw up the thin bleach.**

(Make sure the outside of the needle gets dipped in bleach to kill any virus that is on the outside)

**Empty the syringe into the sink.**



**Draw up water from the second cup.**

**Empty the syringe into the sink.**

Carefully put the cap back on the syringe.

Pour the contaminated water  
and bleach down the sink.

Wash both cups.

**1 x water    1 x bleach    1 x water**

**kills**

hep **C**

hep **B**

**HIV**

**But always use a new sterile  
needle and syringe if you can.**

## Syringe disposal

Queensland has an unusual law that makes it an offence to have a syringe in your possession without the means to safely dispose of it.

**In practice this means that if you are stopped and searched, you may well be charged with intent if you have not got the sharps container you were given by the NSP with you.**

The law doesn't actually say you have to carry a plastic sharps container – the requirement is for a 'rigid walled', 'puncture resistant container' that can be 'closed in such a manner that its contents are incapable of causing injury to any person'. So it should be possible to argue that a biscuit tin, jar, or screw top can that meets this definition is allowable.

## **‘Fits, tips, & packs’ is a guide to injecting equipment for people accessing the Queensland Needle and Syringe Program.**

You can use it to look up the equipment you are using, and see if there are safer alternatives that might cause less damage to your injecting site and veins, and to see if the pack you are collecting has everything you need.

**EXCHANGE**  
**S U P P L I E S**  

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**MAKING INJECTING SAFER**

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