

Practitioners' quick guide to the common questions raised when Unisharp syringes are introduced

“Why are they coloured?”

Because receptive sharing often happens when people can't tell who used which syringe because they're all the same.

“Doesn't it encourage syringe re-use?”

No. No one uses a used syringe if there's a new one to hand, but people run out and syringe re-use is when sharing happens.

“How many colours shall I take?”

How many people are you picking up for? Take one colour for each person, and make sure you take enough for all of them. If it's just for you, do you need a few of other colours for people you see who might want a syringe?

“Is it just like other syringes?”

Well, no. They have taken the collar off the syringe, and made the plunger end bigger to make it easier to get your thumb in and control when injecting one-handed.

“I like colour x the best, why is it better?”

It isn't: the needles and syringes are all made on the same production line, and the plungers and caps are added last so it's just not possible that one colour is better than another.

“Are they rejects, is it to save money?”

No. The syringes were developed by Exchange Supplies – a UK based social enterprise committed to harm reduction, and improving the health of people who inject drugs: check out their website. They've been giving them out over there for years and have distributed over 20 million: it's really popular.

“I don't use 27G, do they come in a 29G too?”

Yes.

Designed to reduce sharing

Plungers and caps different colours to prevent accidental sharing

