Health Alert: Infection Safety and Prevention

Infection Prevention during Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration

Multiple hepatitis B virus outbreaks have been associated with the improper use of blood glucose testing and monitoring devices. As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidelines and best practices concerning infection prevention during the delivery of point-of-care blood glucose monitoring and insulin administration. Unsafe use of glucose testing and administration devices can lead to increased risk for transmitting the hepatitis B virus and other infectious diseases. The CDC
requires that the following guidelines be followed when assisting patients with blood glucose monitoring and/or insulin administration:

- Fingerstick devices, insulin pens and other medication cartridges and syringes are meant for single-use and should not be used for more than one person.
- Blood glucose meters should not be shared when possible. If sharing is necessary, the meter must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

The Safe Injection Practices Coalition provides posters and brochures through their *One and Only One Campaign* to help raise awareness about the consequences of unsafe injection practices and provide basic injection safety for use in clinics and other point-of-care locations. The *One and Only One Campaign materials* are available online and free copies can be ordered from the CDC.


More reports, resources and other information can be found on the UIHI website, [www.uihi.org](http://www.uihi.org)