

Contact Us

Urgent Questions or Concerns

Telehealth Nursing
651-229-3890

Other Questions About Your Care

St. Paul Clinic patients:
Nurse Call Line
651-578-5000

Patients at Other Locations:
Contact a member of your
Gillette health care team.

Appointments

651-290-8707

Books, DVDs and More

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Health Resources and Education

St. Paul campus, near
fourth-floor skyway

651-229-3938

hre@gillettechildrens.com

Safe Injection Practices

If you're giving medicine by injection, it's very important to know what type of container you're drawing the medicine from: a **single-dose vial** or a **multiple-dose vial**.

You also must understand how to properly use the container you have. Misusing either type of container can be **dangerous**, with potential to cause serious consequences, including death.

Single-Dose Vials

A **single-dose vial (SDV)** is for use with a **single** patient for a **single** injection.

Safe Use of SDVs

After giving **one** dose from an SDV, **discard** the container. Do **not** save or use leftover medicine in the vial.

Using leftover medicine from an SDV can cause **infection**. (SDVs usually lack anti-microbial preservatives, so after the container has been opened, harmful bacteria can grow in the medicine.)

Multiple-Dose Vials

A **multiple-dose vial (MDV)** can be used for a limited period of time: **28 days** after it's been opened or punctured, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer.

An MDV is identified by a FDA-approved label.

Safe Use of MDVs

When you open or puncture an MDV to begin using the medicine inside, assign the container a **beyond-use date**.

The beyond-use date should be 28 days after you start using the vial, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. **Do not use medicine from the MDV after the beyond-use date.**

An MDV also has an **expiration date**. No matter when you started using the medicine, **do not use it beyond the expiration date**.

Before puncturing the rubber top of an MDV, **disinfect** it by wiping it with a **70-percent isopropyl alcohol solution**.

Every time you draw medicine from an MDV, use a **new needle** and a **new syringe**. Between uses, do **not** leave needles or other objects in the vial's rubber top. They could contaminate the medicine inside.

Container Sizes

SDVs and MDVs come in many shapes and sizes. **Do not assume** that a container is an SDV or an MDV based on its size or the amount of medicine it contains. To determine if your medicine is in an SDV or an MDV, **always check the label**.

When to Discard Vials

Discard an **SDV** after **one use**.

Discard an **MDV** after reaching the **beyond-use date** or **expiration date**.

With **any** vial, if you're not sure whether the medicine inside is still **sterile**, do **not** use the medicine. Discard the container.