

Preventing Exposure to Infection during Diabetes Care

The practice of using lancets and lancet pens and some glucose meters on more than one person is recognized as unsafe. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommends that all fingerstick devices be used only on a single patient.

Devices used to draw a blood sample (including lancet pens and lancets) should **never** be used for more than one person.

Whenever possible, blood glucose meters should **not** be shared. If they must be shared, the device should be cleaned and disinfected after every use, per manufacturer's instructions. If the manufacturer does not specify how the device should be cleaned and disinfected then it should not be shared.

Insulin pens and other medication cartridges and syringes are for single-patient-use only and should **never** be used for more than one person. After use, all sharp fingerstick equipment must be disposed of at the point of use in an approved manner such as into a puncture proof container. Proper disposal prevents the spread of disease to others and also prevents accidents injury.

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