

SAFE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION PEN DEVICES

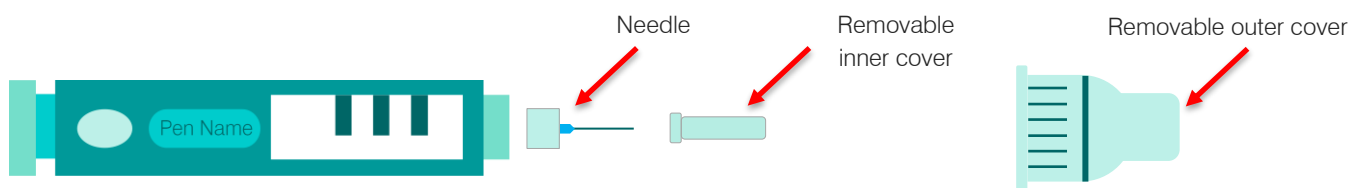
INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Numerous injectable medications are now available as pen devices. Many of these are insulins and glucagon-like peptide-1 analogues, used for the treatment of diabetes. Wherever possible, patients should administer their own medication pen devices using a **standard pen needle** or **safety pen needle**. If it is necessary for staff to administer a pen device, a safety pen needle should be used for each dose.

There have been reports of patients and staff administering insulin using standard pen needles without removing the inner cover, mistaking them for safety pen needles. Patients received inadequate insulin, resulting in hyperglycaemia and other complications. It is easy to become accustomed to using safety pen needles and overlook when a standard pen needle may be in use. Staff and patients should be educated on the difference between needles and check which type they have, before each dose is administered.

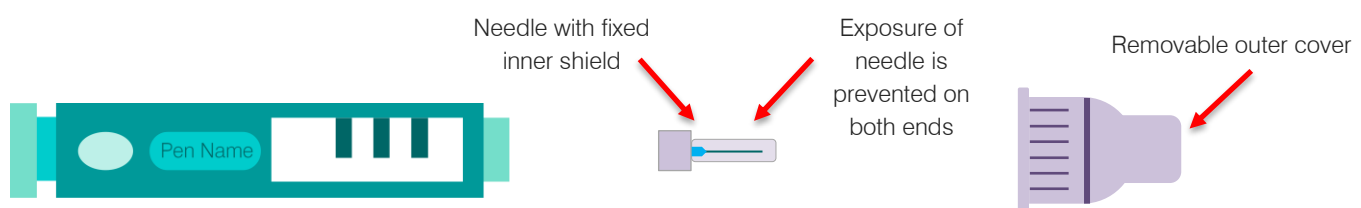
Standard Pen Needles

Standard pen needles will often have a needle covered by a removable inner cover and outer cover. BOTH the inner and outer covers must be removed before an injection.



Safety Pen Needles

Safety pen needles have a needle with a fixed inner shield and often have an outer cover. The outer cover is removed before an injection but the fixed inner shield stays on.



Using the Safety Pen Needle

The needle with fixed inner shield is placed against the skin.

The injection button is pressed and the needle extends out of the fixed inner shield, penetrating the skin and delivering the dose.

When the injection is completed, the needle *automatically retracts within the shield*. The needle is locked inside, preventing needlestick injury and can be safely removed from the pen.

