Needles for Pre-Filled and Reusable Injector Pens for Subcutaneous Injection of Diabetes Medicines

Needle Length

The recommended needle lengths for adults are 4mm, 5mm or 6mm. For children, 4mm or 5mm needles are usually recommended.

Using shorter pen needles helps to prevent lipodystrophy and avoid unpredictable blood sugar levels. If needle length is changed, blood sugars should be monitored. Injection technique should be taught when initiating a medication and checked at each diabetic review. Injection sites should be rotated.

All needles are for single use only.

Needle Brand

The recommended brand is TriCare screw-on needles (Owen Mumford Ltd).

Available in 4mm, 5mm, 6mm sizes.
Compatible with all major brands of insulin pens.

Cost = £3.95 for 100

By using this high quality brand, Coventry and Rugby CCG could save up to £150,000 per year.

Safe Disposal of Sharps

Patients should be educated about the safe disposal of sharps before starting injections and advice reinforced at every opportunity.

1 litre sharps bins (£0.85) and needle clipping devices (e.g. BD Safe Clip, £1.33) can be prescribed on FP10.

GP practices should not accept sharps bins for disposal. Some pharmacies may accept sharps bins for disposal, or patients should contact their local council.

N.B. Shield guard needles (e.g. Novofine Autocover, BD Autoshield, MyLifeClickfine AutoProtect) are extremely expensive and should only be prescribed where injections are being given by a healthcare professional and there is a risk of needlestick injury.