



Information Sheet: FILTER NEEDLES

What is a filter needle?

A filter needle places a glass filtering device at the base of a syringe needle. The filter creates a **one-way** flow when withdrawing or injecting fluid into or from the syringe. The filter needle can be used to either withdraw or inject but never for both, **it can only be pulled or pushed in one direction.**

Why do we need to use a Filter Needle?

The ampoule is opened by breaking the neck. This process can cause a shower of miniscule glass shards that may fall undetected into the vial. Administration of medication containing glass shards can result in inflammation of the veins and infection. A filter needle will reduce the chance of glass being introduced into a medication.

How to use Blunt Filter Needles

1. Wash your hands
2. Place the filter needle on the end of the syringe, leaving the protective cap in place.
3. Set the ampoule on a flat surface.
4. Tap the top of the ampoule so the liquid drains from the neck.
5. Wrap a piece of alcohol swab or gauze around the neck of the ampoule.
6. Point the ampoule away from your body. Break the neck of the ampoule by applying quick, firm pressure.
7. Discard the alcohol swab or gauze and ampoule neck in a sharps container.
8. Remove the protective cover from the filter needle. Insert the filter needle into the center of the ampoule opening. Do not allow any part of the needle to touch the rim of the ampoule.
9. Pull back on the plunger to aspirate the medication into the syringe. Keep the tip of the needle below the surface of the liquid.
10. Remove the needle from the ampoule after desired amount is drawn up.
11. Re-cap, **remove and discard filter needle.**
12. **Put on a non-filter needle** to adjust the volume and remove any air from the syringe.



BD™ blunt filter needle,
18 G 1 1/2"
5 Micron Filter
Blunt fill tip

*Prepared by: Jill Krevesky (St Boniface) and Christina Whittaker (HSC)
Supported by references including Lippincott's Nursing Procedures 5th ed; Clinical Nursing Skills and Techniques 7th ed. (Potter and Perry) and Mosby Nursing Skills -on-line (Elsevier).*