

# Needle and Syringe Program Best Practice Service Provision

## *Recommended Equipment List: May 2018*

Consistency of equipment across different types of NSP outlets has been identified in the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League's (AIVL) *Needle and Syringe Programs in Australia: Peer-led Best Practice* report as a critical component of NSP best practice service provision. An audit of equipment availability across each state and territory reveals significant differences in the type of equipment between jurisdictions, as well as between different types of NSP outlets within jurisdictions.

Different types of injections require different types of equipment and it is critical that a consistent range of basic injecting equipment be provided across all NSP outlet types to ensure the NSP services can support the diversity of injecting drug use.

This factsheet outlines AIVL's recommended equipment for NSPs across Australia. It provides an overview of equipment that AIVL recommends NSPs stock as well as providing guidance to NSP staff on providing the right equipment for the right injection.

### **Standard Set of Injecting Paraphernalia**

At minimum, AIVL recommends the following items are available.

Item	Function
27 and 29 gauge syringes	Single use insulin syringes for heroin, amphetamine and other injectables
Swabs	Disinfecting/preparing the injection site
Sterile cotton / filter (see 'Filter' section for more details)	Filtering drug solutions Stemming bleeding after needle is removed
Water ampules	Sterile water for mixing drugs into an injectable solution
Spoon/Stericup	Vessel to mix drugs
Tourniquet	Tying off in preparation for injecting

Disposal container	Safe disposal of used equipment in a puncture proof container
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## Tips and Barrels

Depending on the drug being injected and personal preference, different sized tips and barrels are required.

### Tips

Gauge*	Function
18 (pink) 19 (beige)	Used for drawing up large volumes of liquid. Not to be used for intravenous injecting
21 (green)	Use for intramuscular injecting. The longer needle allows for deep muscle penetration -steroids
23 (blue)	Used for intramuscular injecting and best for people with a lower muscle mass
25 (orange)	Used for intravenous injecting with 5mL, 10mL or 20mL barrels for injecting of pills and steroids
Winged Infusion Sets (butterflies)	Used for larger volume intravenous injection of pills, steroids and other injectables, often when multiple barrels are used or needed

\*The gauge refers to the thickness of the needle, the higher the gauge the thinner the needle, length can vary.

### Barrels

Size (mL)	Function
3mL, 5mL, 10mL and 20mL	To be used in conjunction with a tip or winged infusion set. Different sized barrels are used depending on the amount of liquid to be injected. AIVL recommends that both luer lock and non-luer lock (slip on) barrels be available.

## Wheel Filters

Drugs often contain impurities such as chalk and wheel filters are used to remove impurities – ranging from larger particles through to very small bacterial contaminants. The size of filters are measured in ‘microns’ (also known as ‘micrometres’) and one micron is equal to 0.001 millimetres. Filters come in a range of micron sizes and the smaller the filter size, the more particles it can filter out. For example, a 0.2-micron filter is able to

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capture more particles and impurities than a 5-micron filter. People often use two or more filters for their solution, as larger particles will very quickly block a 'blue' wheel filter.

Filter Colour	Micron Size
Brown	5, removes larger particles only
Red	1.2, removes larger particles only
Green	0.8, removes larger particles only
Blue	0.2, removes particles and bacteria. This does not filter or remove viruses.