



RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE POLICIES TO **facilitate use of a sterile water for each injection**



DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES

- Single-use, smallest size sterile water vials
- Offer a sterile water vial with each needle, cooker, sterile filter and alcohol swab provided
- Based on the quantity requested by clients with no limits

EDUCATE

- Correct, single person use of needles and syringes
- Correct single person use of mixing and rinse water
- HIV- and HCV-related risks associated with sharing mixing and rinse waters
- Risks of using non-sterile water (such as tap, bottled, rain, puddle, and urinal water) and other fluids (such as saliva and urine)

DISPOSE

- Dispose used water vials in accordance with local regulations for biomedical waste
- Offer multiple sizes of biohazard containers for safe disposal
- Offer multiple, convenient locations for safe disposal in rural and urban settings

RISKS

- Water used for dissolving drugs when in contact with re-used equipment may be contaminated with HIV, HCV and HBV and bacteria
- Use of the same water source (e.g., a glass) by more than one person for mixing drug solutions and rinsing equipment may lead to transmission of HIV, HCV and/or HBV if any of the equipment is re-used and contaminated
- Sharing rinse water increases the risk of HCV seroconversion
- Some water sources (e.g., bottle, puddle, saliva, toilet cistern water) can be contaminated with bacteria and/or fungi

BEHAVIORS

- Inserting a needle directly into a water vial may dull or 'barb' the needle leading to skin and vein damage
- Previously used containers that are emptied and/or washed out and refilled with water can increase the transmission of HCV
- Sharing of mixing and rinse water is a frequent practice
- Sharing water from a communal container increases the risk of HIV and HCV transmission
- Injecting in public locations often leads to risky preparation procedures such as using puddle water, saliva or toilet cistern water to prepare drugs