



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



DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES

- Individually pre-packaged, sterile cookers with flat bottoms and heat-resistant handles
- Offer a needle, sterile water, filter and alcohol swab with each cooker provided
- Offer a variety of cookers
- Based on the quantity requested by clients with no limits

EDUCATE

- Correct, single person use of cookers
- Different brands, sizes, gauges, types and/or volumes and correct use
- Risks associated with sharing and reuse of cookers
- Benefits and risks of heating all drug solutions before injecting

DISPOSE

- Dispose of used cookers 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

- Used cookers can be contaminated with HIV, HCV, HBV or other pathogens
- Transmission may occur when more than one person uses HIV, HCV or HBV contaminated cookers, needles and syringes and/or filters to prepare and inject a drug solution
- "Makeshift" cookers such as spoons and bottle caps are not sterile and can lead to infections

BEHAVIORS

- Cookers are more frequently shared than any other injection related harm reduction supply
- Frequent injecting, limited access to harm reduction supplies and a history of mental health problems are associated with higher rates of sharing injection equipment, including cookers
- Different methods used to prepare drug solutions influence the survival of HCV and HIV in solutions and on injection equipment
- Sharing and dividing drugs is common and increases the opportunity for transmission
- 'Cooking' drug solutions can significantly reduce the number of bacteria and/or HIV that can cause infections; however solutions need to be cooled before injecting