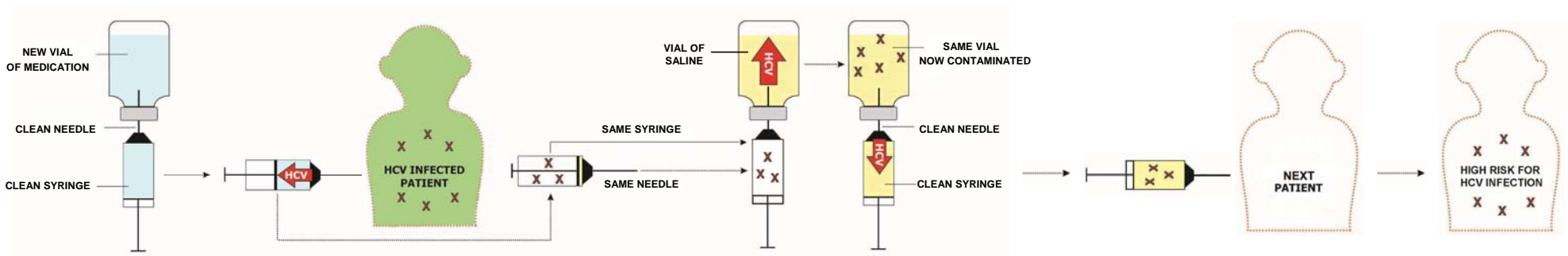


Unsafe Injection Practices and Disease Transmission

Reuse of syringes combined with the use of vials for multiple patients can transmit infectious bloodborne diseases. The syringe does not have to be used on multiple patients for this to occur.



1. A clean syringe and needle are used to draw medication from a new vial that is then discarded.

2. The syringe and needle are then used to administer the medication to a patient who has been previously infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV). Backflow into the syringe contaminates the syringe with HCV.

3. The same syringe and needle used to administer the medication (step #2) are then used to draw saline from a vial, contaminating the vial with HCV.

4. Saline is then drawn with a clean needle and syringe from the contaminated saline vial for use on the next patient(s). The next patient(s) is/are now at high risk for infection with HCV and/or any other bloodborne diseases such as hepatitis B and HIV.

Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

