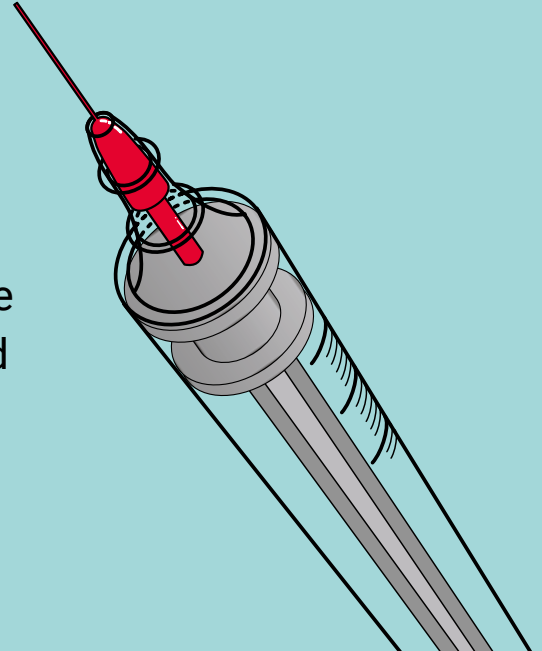


Low Dead Space Syringes and Needles

What are they and why use them?

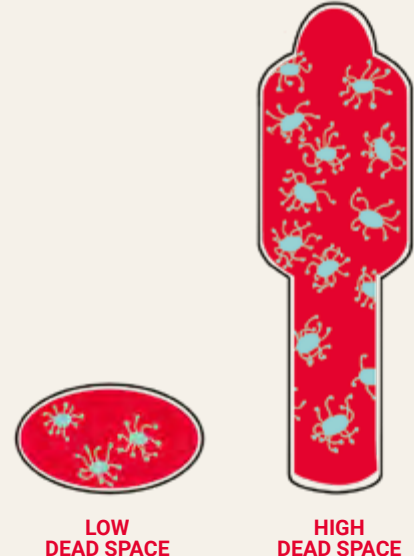
What is Dead Space?

Dead space is the space between the needle and the plunger when the plunger is pressed all the way down to the end of the syringe. This is the space where blood remains after the needle and syringe has been used.



Why is the amount of dead-space important?

Some needles and syringes have more dead space than others and this can mean that more blood and drug is left behind after injecting. This blood could contain viruses like HIV, hepatitis C or hepatitis B. The lower the dead space, the less blood left behind and the lower the risk of getting or passing on viruses if needles and syringes are reused.



Remember:

Less dead space

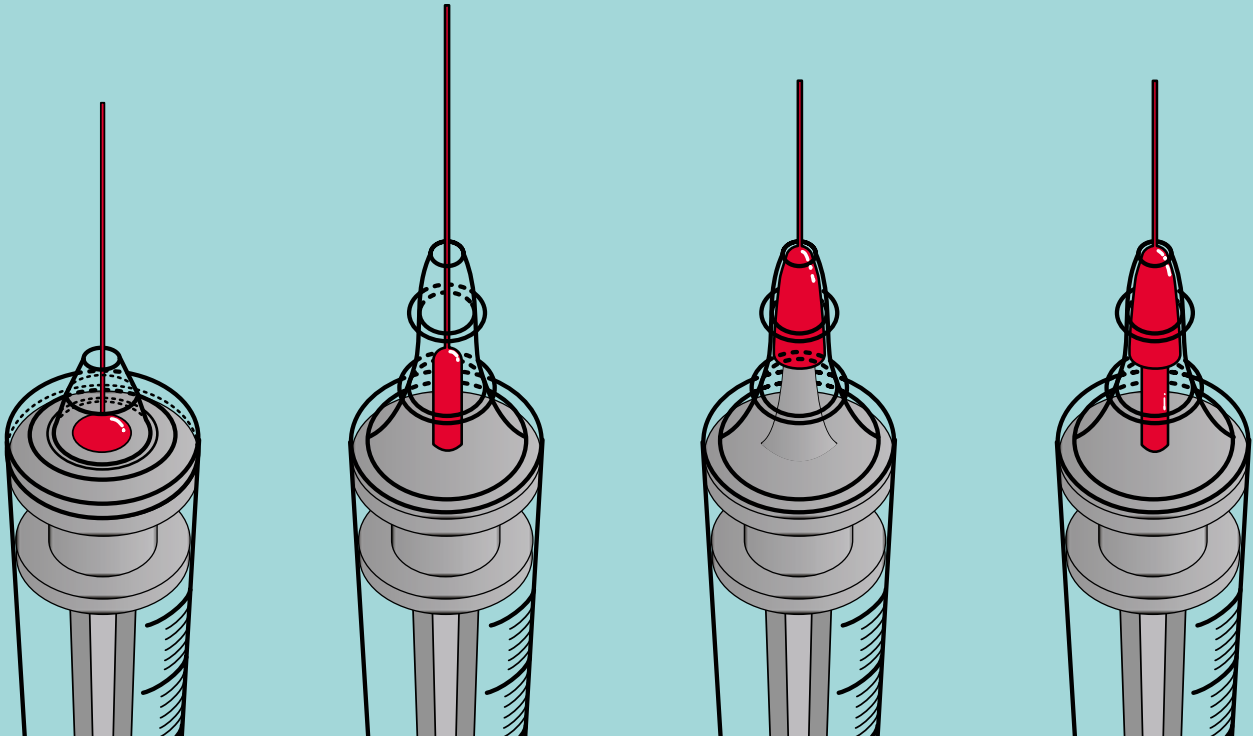
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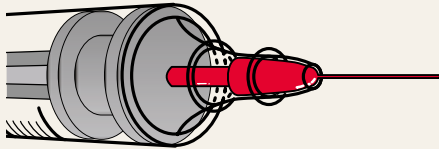
less blood

=

less risk of viruses

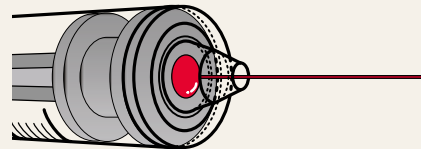
Different types of Needles and Syringes have different amounts of dead space





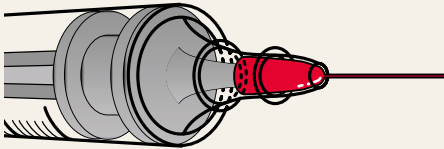
High Dead Space Syringe and Needle (HDSS/N) Combination – larger syringe barrels (greater than 1ml) + standard detachable HDS needles have the

- highest amount of dead space,
- highest amount blood remaining,
- highest amount of virus, and highest risk of passing on viruses if re-used.



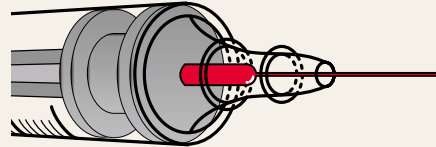
Low Dead Space Syringe (LDSS) Unit – 1ml insulin syringes with the fixed needle (all in one unit) and other LDSS have the

- lowest amount of dead space,
- lowest amount of blood remaining,
- lowest amount of virus, and lowest risk of passing on viruses if re-used.



Reduced Dead Space Syringe (RDSS)

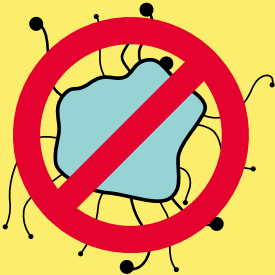
– Has a rubber spike on the end of the plunger that reduces the dead space by 50% compared to a standard HDSS/N combination. At only 50% reduced dead space, the RDSS does not offer as much benefit to people who inject drugs as LDSN



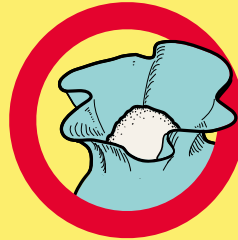
Low Dead Space Needle (LDSN) –

These needles have a plastic spike that extends from the base of the needle that fills the dead space between the end of the plunger and the tip of standard high dead space syringes (larger barrels). It reduces the dead space by 85 - 90% compared to a standard HDSS/N combination.

What are the main benefits of using low dead space needles & syringes?



Less chance of getting or passing on viruses if works are reused



Less drug is left behind, so less drug is wasted

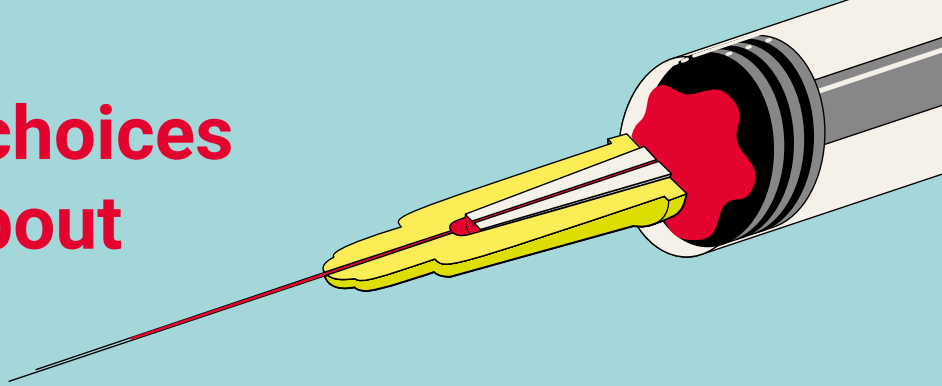


No need to flush as flushing damages veins



If you have to re-use, low dead space needles and syringes are easier to clean

What are my choices now I know about dead space?



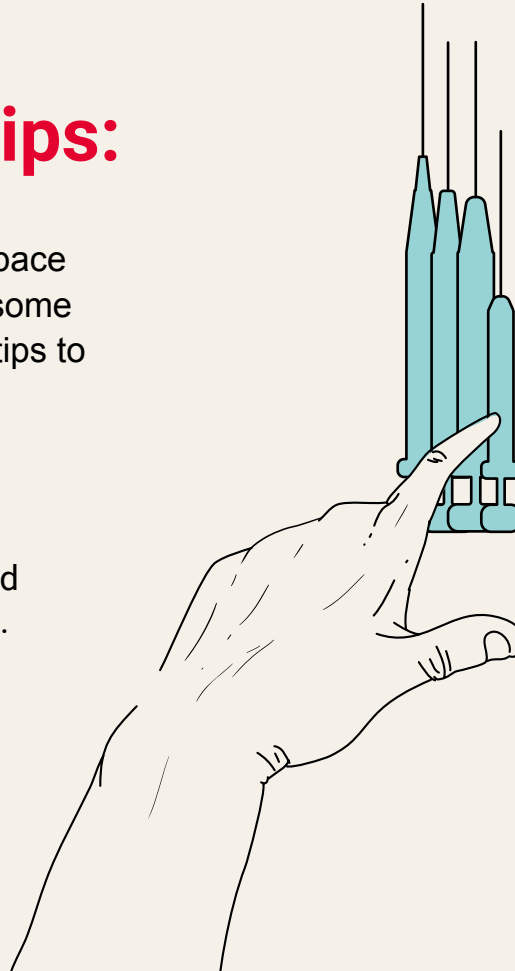
If you already use 1ml insulin syringes (with a fixed needle) and this suits your needs, nothing needs to change – you are already using the best Low Dead Space Syringe option currently available!

But not everyone uses a 1ml fixed insulin syringe. Some people prefer using larger barrels and different length needles (because of what they're injecting, how or where they're injecting, vein issues, and many other reasons). Some people like detachable needles so they can easily change the needle if it gets blunted during injecting. Some people will use different types of needles & syringes for preparing and injecting their drugs. Using a low dead space needle (LDSN) with a standard high dead space syringe (HDSS) provides a low dead space option in these circumstances.

Take Away Harm Reduction Tips:

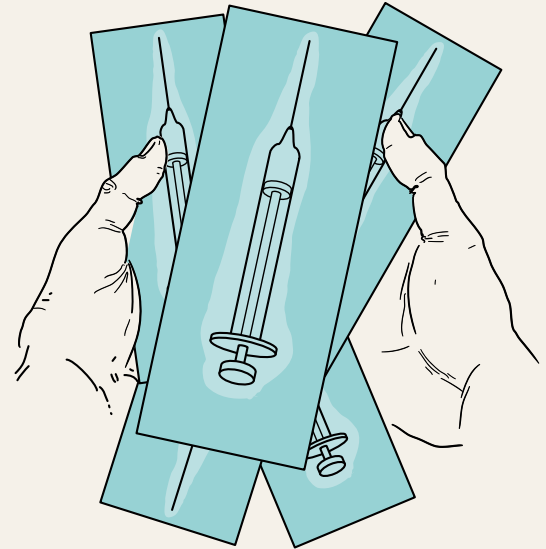
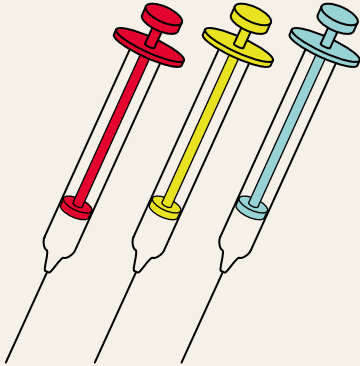
Whether you choose to use low dead space syringes and needles, or not, here are some useful, safer using and harm reduction tips to keep in mind:

- 1. Choose low** – choose the lowest dead space option for your injecting needs.



2. If you can:

- always take as many needles & syringes as you need.
- take enough to have new injecting equipment for every hit.
- use swabs and clean your hands before injecting.
- dispose of used needles & syringes safely and return used equipment.



3. If you use with others:

- keep your used needles & syringes separate.
- try marking your needles & syringes so you can tell which are yours.
- or use needles & syringes with the coloured plungers if available.

4. If you have to re-use:

try to clean used needles & syringes before reusing.



5. Don't Use Big Needles – use the finest and sharpest needles you can so there is less blood when injecting and to avoid scarring and vein problems.

**Most of all, stay safe,
and look after yourself
and your community.**

Local information/contact point