



National Centre
for the Replacement
Refinement & Reduction
of Animals in Research

Single use of needles poster: Terms of use

The NC3Rs has produced an A3 poster explaining why single use of needles should be standard practice, intended for display in laboratory animal facility rooms and corridors.

Further information on why single-use needles should only be used once can be found on the NC3Rs website:
<https://nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/reuse-needles>.

Print specifications

The proper use of this poster requires the images and text to be clear and easily discernible. Therefore, it must be printed by a professional print service at the full A3 size.

The poster in this PDF has been setup to professional print standards and has crops and bleed added. Please use the print specification outlined below and the printer will trim the poster to the finished size.

- Finished Size: 420mm x 297mm (A3 portrait)
- Print specification: Full colour
- Paper specification (ideally): 170gsm silk

If you have any issues, or need the file in another format, please contact enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk.

Circulation and reproduction

The poster in this PDF should not be circulated without this covering page attached to it.

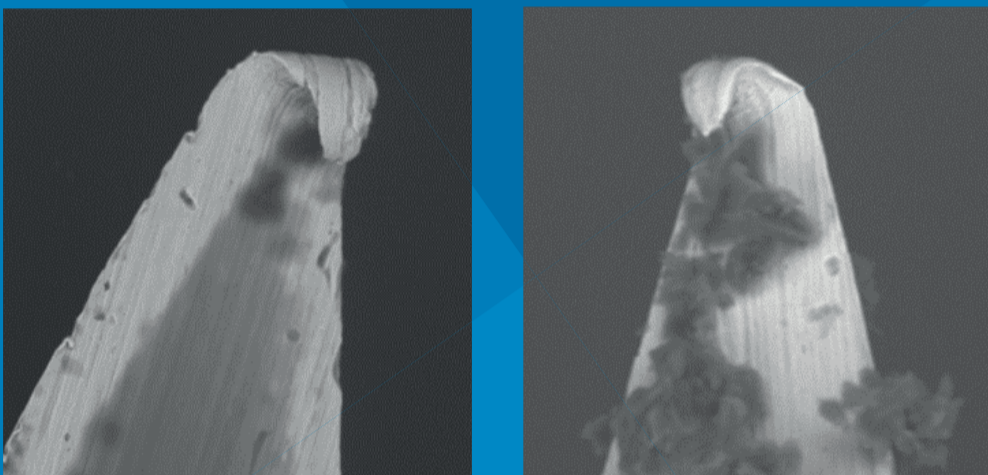
Any requests to reproduce this poster, or to include it in any publications or training materials, should be directed to enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk. You should include how, why and where the poster will be used so that we can consider your case for approval. It is helpful to include any associated text, so we can see the context in which the poster will be put.

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Why use needles only once?

Single-use needles are designed to be used once. If used again, there is a risk that the needle will dull and cause the animals pain.

You should avoid reusing them and single use should be your standard practice.



Electron micrograph images of 27G needles (1000x magnification) after injection into mice demonstrating the potential for dulling of the needle and contamination when reused.

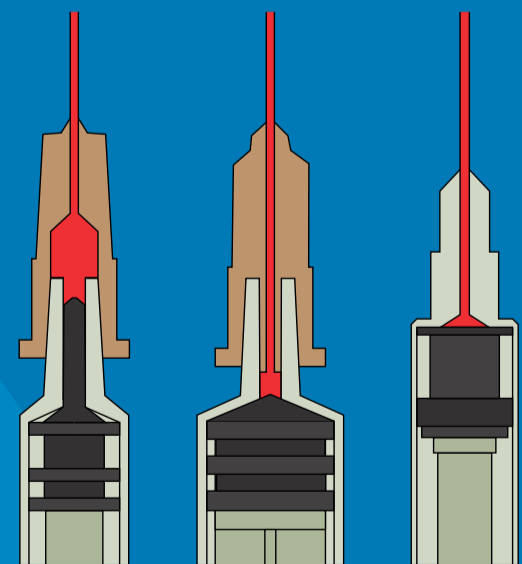
Source: AstraZeneca

The risks of reusing needles include:

- Causing unnecessary pain and suffering as well as tissue damage.
- Transferring tissue products between your animals, which could compromise your science.
- Spreading infection between your animals – even low-level infections can have an impact on your animals and therefore your science.

Practical tips:

- If your injectable substance is in limited supply, low dead-space single-use needles (commonly used in human blood sampling) can be used. Your local vet can advise on suppliers.
- If there is a justifiable scientific or practical reason why single needle use is not feasible (e.g. critical shortage of your injectable substance), check your institution's approval policy and consult your ethical committee before proceeding.



Examples of commercially available low dead-space single-use needles.

More information on single-use needles: www.nc3rs.org.uk/needlereuse