New! Cover Story: “Profiles in Injection Safety”

Nearly every healthcare provider has a story about someone they have worked with—a teacher, a mentor, a champion—who sets the bar high for following the rules. They’re a provider who scrupulously follows safe injection practices and shuns “workarounds,” no matter how busy they are. Those people can inspire others—from novice professionals to seasoned colleagues—by the example they set.

To that end, the NY One & Only Campaign begins a new ISN feature called “Profiles in Injection Safety,” where we put a spotlight on this kind of commitment and dedication to following safe injection protocols.

In this edition, we introduce you to Susan “Sam” Miller, RNC, Infection Control Coordinator, RN, Ed., who is a “standard bearer” for safe injection practices.

“OK, you just washed your hands? Really well? Let’s put them under the Glitter Bug light and see how you did,” says infection preventionist Susan “Sam” Miller, the Department Head for Staff Education at skilled nursing facility St. Margaret’s Center in Albany, New York. Sam is fiercely dedicated to injection safety, starting with proper hand hygiene. So periodically, she has staffers apply a special hand lotion and then scrub their hands. She then checks how thoroughly they cleaned.

“OK, the light will glow to show the spots you could have washed a little more intensively,” says Sam, encouraging them to put their hands under an opening where the device, called a “Glitter Bug,” uses UV fluorescent light to highlight trouble spots. Most

New! Cover Story: “Profiles in Injection Safety”

NY One & Only Campaign Presents: Injection Safety!

You Asked For It, and We Created It!! Nursing School “Learning Podcast”

AAAHC Webinar Features Injection Safety & New York State Department of Health

CONTACT US!
professionals are shocked when the highlighted “glow” spots show how poorly they did even at their best effort at getting ultra-clean hands.

“Oh, you thought your hands were clean?” says Sam, gently encouraging them to scrub more thoroughly the next time. “Maybe go back and try again?” she says with a smile.

Clean hands are the first step. But Sam is all about following the One & Only Campaign mantra of “One Needle, One Syringe, Only One Time” when preparing and administering an injection. She gets “fired up” when she sees headlines about unsafe injection practices that have potentially exposed patients to bloodborne pathogens, like hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus and HIV.

“I’m not a ‘Do as I say, not as I do’ kind of person,” she says. “I know staff watch me,” to observe her technique. And they remember what they see even years later, in other facilities, especially when they are tempted to cut corners on safe injections. “One told me she hears me in her head,” Sam laughs. “But it’s great to hear them say they didn’t take the shortcut and instead followed protocol and best practice.”

And it all comes down to the example Sam set in their training as the former staffer explained when she called her later. ‘She said, ‘I remembered what you said in that ‘in-service’ before,’” says Sam.

Following correct injection safety procedure should be a “no-brainer.” So why do some of these basics of infection control get lost when injections are given?

Sam says, “It always comes down to time and money. People are in a hurry or maybe they’re told that to save money they might consider reusing equipment. It’s ‘One and Done’ as far as I’m concerned. What is the real cost? How many pennies does a new syringe or needle cost compared to the cost of an outbreak of infection?”

Sam has been a member of the NY One & Only Campaign for 5 years now. And she realizes that providers have to be vigilant, not only about their own practices but those of colleagues or staff they supervise.

“Don’t go in and parent them. Show them you’re helping, by educating them. Lately I’ve been hearing about a tendency to wipe off the needles with alcohol and reuse the syringe. That is just unacceptable. Once that syringe is used it needs to be discarded!”

And one training or webinar isn’t sufficient. Sam says you have to reiterate the basics of safe practice constantly, in word and by setting the example.

“We need to keep talking about it and not think that if we’ve had one training or in-service or put up a poster that we’re done and can move on. A refresher is always good. You just have to keep banging the drum for injection safety, each and every time you give an injection or supervise someone else giving an injection.”
NY One & Only Campaign Presents: Injection Safety!

National Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 11-17, 2018) dovetailed with several Spring presentations on injection safety and the One & Only Campaign that were made throughout the state of New York.

Ernest Clement, MSN, RN, CIC, nurse-epidemiologist in the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Bureau of Healthcare Associated Infections, spoke to a Nurses’ Grand Rounds at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany and later to nurses at Albany Memorial Hospital on March 15, 2018. Clement stressed principles of infection control and injection safety, citing numerous case studies in New York and across the US, where lapses in safe practices posed the risk of—or actual—transmission of bloodborne pathogens to patients. Reusing needles and syringes, or mis-using single-dose and multi-dose vials were among the concerns shared by the NY One & Only Campaign.

On March 20, Emily Lutterloh, MD, MPH, Director of the NYSDOH Bureau of Healthcare Associated Infections, spoke to physicians, nurse-supervisors and nurses in the Quality Improvement Committee at St. Peter’s Hospital as well, citing many of the same injection safety concerns. Reported reactions from those who attended the sessions included: “Staff felt it was interesting and pertinent…Everyone left saying that every nurse should attend and listen.”

Clement also spoke to the Association for Vascular Access Nurses of Central New York (AVA-CNY), on March 29 and to novice infection preventionists at the New York State Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Coordinating Council on May 2. Later that same day, Clement presented on injection safety to the Mohawk Valley Nurses Association.

You Asked For It, and We Created It!! Nursing School “Learning Podcast”

Back in Spring 2017, the New York State Department of Health/NY One & Only Campaign, made a presentation to the Council of Associate Degree Nursing Programs, a group that included administrators from nursing schools across the state.

Upon the conclusion of the presentation—which included instructive case studies on real-life investigations into unsafe injection practices—one nursing school associate dean spoke up and asked, “Could you package the presentation we just heard into a 15 minute version and put it on a podcast?” She indicated she would make listening to such a podcast a required part of her curriculum for nursing students. That podcast is now available for your use in classroom settings (nursing, medical or dental students might all benefit from listening in). Please follow this link and feel free to use it in any classroom, in-service or training. And see the related article in this newsletter, “Take the Pledge!” to learn how a commitment poster can be used to underscore learning about injection safety in medical or nursing school classes.
Take the Pledge!!

You’ve probably taken a “selfie” or smartphone photo and quickly posted it to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. But why not make a stand for injection safety, the next time you do it?

On May 3, during National Nurses Week, healthcare provider Arlene Walch, MSN, RN, Education Coordinator at Columbia Greene Memorial Hospital, took the NY One & Only pledge and made a stand for injection safety. It’s a simple way to show colleagues and patients that you as a provider, have committed to following safe injection practices as outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “Standard Precautions”. (This might be a good time to review with staff what those Standard Precautions on injection safety entail. See link below.)


This is not meant to be an “empty gesture!” Medical literature has shown that providers who show their public commitment, by posting their photo holding a pledge or simply signing a pledge and posting it at their facility, have a greater commitment to the principle (in this instance, injection safety). www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24474434. This is also a nice activity for conferences, to demonstrate your solidarity with injection safety principles as a professional organization.

It’s easy! Here’s how you can take part:

1. Click on this link to the NY One & Only Campaign state partner web page.: www.oneandonlycampaign.org/partner/new-york

2. On the left hand column under “News and Events”, download and print out the pledge.

3. Sign the pledge and post a photo of yourself or with colleagues holding the pledge. Post on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Pinterest. (Landscape view looks best.)

4. Alternatively, you can email marybeth.wenger@health.ny.gov and we might feature the photo you send on the NY One & Only page. (Note: by sending it to us, you give us your permission to use it on our web page or social media channels.)

CHALLENGE your colleagues to join in, and create a community of practice! The pledge is also a great way to underscore learning at medical and nursing schools, once students have completed injection safety modules. Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing students in Troy, NY, proudly show their pledges above after completing their injection validations.
AAAHC Webinar Features Injection Safety & New York State Department of Health

Stories of real-life unsafe injection practices can motivate healthcare providers to acknowledge that injection safety is a current and vital concern in 2018.

To that end, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC), invited the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)/NY One & Only Campaign to share case studies from injection safety investigations with a national audience of ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) and other outpatient practices including primary care settings.

“Safe Injection Practices (SIP) Common AAAHC Standards, Deficiencies and What YOU Need to Know to Avoid Them and Ensure Patient Safety” was the webinar aired on Wednesday May 16th with presentations by Kris Kilgore, RN, BSN, of the Surgical Care Center of Michigan, and Ernest Clement, MSN, RN, CIC of the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Healthcare Associated Infections.

Kilgore defined what safe injection practices are, and shared national statistics on lapses in safe injection technique including AAAHC’s own recent survey of its data warehouse, which found that 10% of AAAHC accredited organizations were not substantially compliant with AAAHC SIP Standards. Clement shared case studies from investigations into unsafe injection practices in both New York State and other states, to underscore that unsafe injections “really do happen.” AAAHC has developed a Safe Injection Practices Toolkit to help ASCs and private practices seeking accreditation, to achieve the highest level of safe injection practice compliance in their own settings.

NYSDOH also presented on concerns about poor infection control during blood glucose monitoring, and the need to disinfect and sterilize glucometers between each and every patient (according to manufacturer’s guidelines) was stressed.

AAAHC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping ambulatory health care organizations improve the quality of care provided to patients. AAAHC reviews an organization’s polices and procedures and compares them to nationally accepted standards. AAAHC is a partner in the national One & Only Campaign and last year highlighted deficiencies in safe injection practices in this study, finding that fewer than 60 percent of organizations surveyed conducted a safe injection practices assessment in the year prior to the survey. This webinar was part of AAAHC’s continuing effort to help practices meet current standards for injection safety.

CONTACT US!

At the New York One & Only Campaign, we are always interested in hearing from healthcare professionals and learning about ways you might be using One & Only Campaign educational materials in your facility.

Please let us know how we might help you by emailing Project Coordinator Mary Beth Wenger at marybeth.wenger@health.ny.gov or calling (518)-474-1036.

We also invite you to tell us if you’d like to join the New York and/or national One & Only Campaigns.

Join the national One & Only Campaign via this link: www.oneandonlycampaign.org/contact-us-2

Thank you!