



PROJECT **FIRSTLINE** JOURNAL CLUB

Project Firstline's curated journal club series draws on published, open access research examining important infection control topics for the healthcare workforce. Use the discussion questions below or create your own. Please check [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest data and recommendations on infection control topics affecting the healthcare workforce.



Article:

[Notes from the Field: Hepatitis C Transmission from Inappropriate Reuse of Saline Flush Syringes for Multiple Patients in an Acute Care General Hospital — Texas, 2015](#) PMCID: [PMC5687193](#)

At least one hepatitis C infection was likely spread between patients in a Texas hospital due to the reuse and sharing of saline flush prefilled syringes in the intravenous lines of multiple patients. The healthcare worker was not aware that this practice was an infection risk. This investigation highlighted the need for ongoing education and management of safe injection practices.



Discussion:

Understanding and analyzing the article:

- What is the purpose of this article? If provided, identify the main research questions and hypotheses.
- Who are the authors and what are their affiliations (who they work for or who funded the research) and credentials (degrees or professional experience)?
- Do any of the authors have affiliations that could influence the outcome of the study due to a conflict of interest?
- When was the article published, and is the information still timely and relevant to the topic? Why or why not?
- What background information is important to understanding this topic?
- What study design or research methods were used?
- What were the main findings of the paper and how do the authors support their interpretation of the findings?
- What are the strengths and limitations of this article?
- What main conclusions and calls to action are presented?

Continue the discussion:

- The article concludes that hospitals and other settings where injections are prepared should perform routine audits of injection preparation and administration. What other steps would you suggest facilities take to improve injection safety practices?
- How can healthcare workers and facilities learn from and use this case study to enhance teamwork in support of infection control practices, training, and education?



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