

Two syringes with a public warning about the importance of needle sterilization to prevent the spread of diseases like AIDS; an advertisement by the Ministry of Health, Fiji and World Health Organization. Colour lithograph.

Contributors

World Health Organization.

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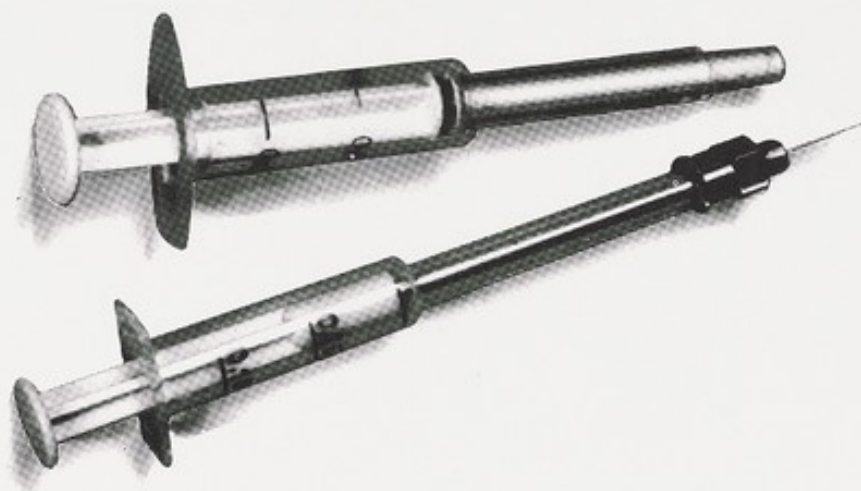
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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

STERILIZATION ALERT



Highlights

- Unsterile injections can transmit infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and AIDS.
- Immunization programmes must ensure that a sterile needle and a sterile syringe are used for each injection.
- Changing needles but using the same syringe does not prevent disease transmission.
- Reusable needles and syringes are recommended for the Expanded Programme on Immunization in developing countries. They must be cleaned and sterilized after use.
- Disposable syringes and needles should only be used if it can be assured that they will be destroyed after a single use.
- Newly developed steam sterilizers effectively sterilize at 121°C after 20 minutes. If steam sterilization is not available, boiling for 20 minutes in a container with the lid in place will kill nearly all organisms.
- Abscesses after injections generally mean that dirty equipment has been used. Abscesses warrant immediate investigation and remedial action.
- The public should be warned to avoid any skin piercing procedure in which sterility is not assured. These procedures include injections, piercing, tattooing and scarification.



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