

A GUIDE TO USING WINGED INFUSION KITS (BUTTERFLIES)

(BUTTERFLIES)

Butterflies are made to be used only one time by one person, then thrown away. Sharing equipment can lead to blood borne viruses and reusing your own equipment can lead to serious infections.

DO IT NOW

If you reuse your own equipment, you risk a dirty hit, abscess, endocarditis or other infection. If you think you may have to reuse injecting equipment like syringes and butterflies, remove blood by flushing immediately with cold tap water. All used equipment will contain blood, even if you can't see it. If you ever do need to reuse equipment that has not been cleaned immediately after use, you should try to pay special attention to bleaching.



You can get butterflies from NUAA's NSP 345 Crown St Surry Hills or order through our postal service online shop.nuaa.org.au



This process can be used to clean butterflies, as well as syringes and other equipment:

- 1 Wash your hands with soap before handling equipment.
- 2 Rinse your equipment immediately after use with cold water (hot water will harden blood) - force it through the tubing several times.
- 3 Repeat with bleach.
- 4 Soak the whole butterfly in bleach for 5 minutes, making sure the bleach is inside the tube as well as covering the whole piece of equipment.
- 5 Rinse the outside by holding it cold running.
- 6 Force cold water through the tubing 3 times to rinse out the bleach.

As a very last resort if you cannot access bleach, you can reduce the risk of infection by repeating the steps using cold water only.

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Winged Infusion Kits (also known as Butterflies) and Larger Barrels are back in NSPs for the first time since they became unavailable in 1999. Using a butterfly means you can inject a larger quantity of liquid with only one injection site by changing barrels.



HARM REDUCTION

Injecting drugs comes with lots of risks – things like bacterial infection; vein, organ, nerve damage; blood borne viruses like hep C and HIV; and overdose. There is no 100% safe way to inject drugs, but we can reduce the harms by practising safer using techniques and accessing specialist equipment like butterflies and wheel filters.

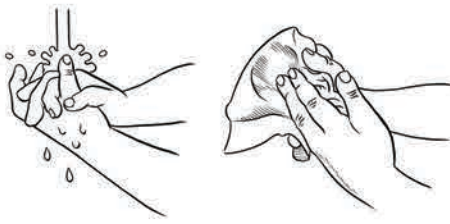

PEER TIPS

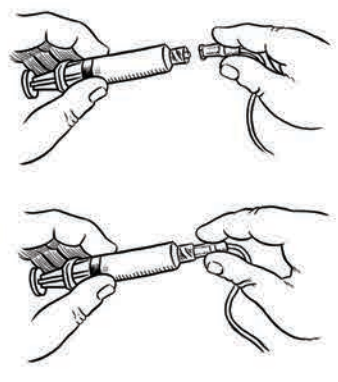
- Make sure everything you need is in arm's reach before you start. Have your barrels lined up and ready to be changed over before you insert the butterfly.
- Brace your arm to keep it steady and stay as relaxed as possible, breathing naturally.
- Go slow!!! Breathe! This is very important.
 - If the site starts to swell even if it doesn't sting, pull out. Try somewhere else, you might have missed the vein. Skin popping doesn't work with butterflies.
- Filtering is really important especially if you are reusing a barrel, as there can be silt build up in barrels.
- Use swabs on your skin before you insert the butterfly needle. Wipe once and only in one direction.
- When you jack back, the blood needs to go all the way to the barrel so you can make sure it's dark vein blood with no clots. If you see clots don't push them back into your body as it will cause DVT. Filter them out.
- Become sensitive to the sensation involved in using a butterfly. Watch your injecting site for changes.
- You will be able to notice things like changing pressure in the pump. That means stop and jack back to see if you're still in the vein. If it suddenly starts to sting, stop straight away.
- Tips on butterflies blunt quicker than 1mls, so reuse can cause veins to roll and be painful.
- Once you have injected all the drug, flush with clean water to reduce leakage.

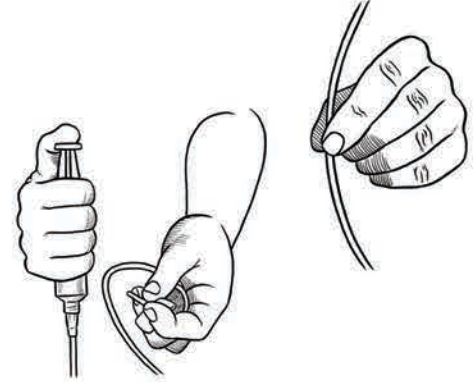
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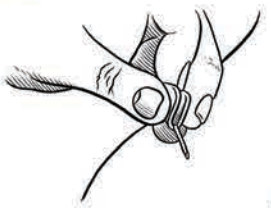
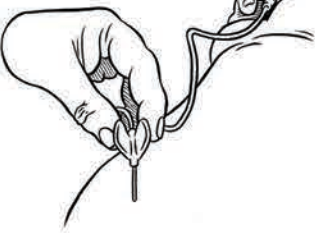

HOW TO PREPARE A BUTTERFLY

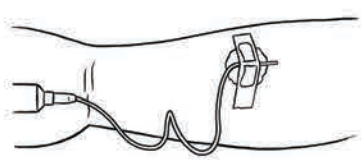
- 1 Follow normal safer using practices: wash your hands with soap and water; lay out all your equipment on a clean area; swab the injection site etc. 
- 2 When choosing a barrel, a luer lock is more secure than a slip lock. But a slip lock is essential if you need to change barrels. 
- 3 Take off the cap (at the opposite end of the tubing from the needle) and attach a barrel to the tubing. A luer lock will screw in, while you simply push into place a slip lock until it sits tightly.

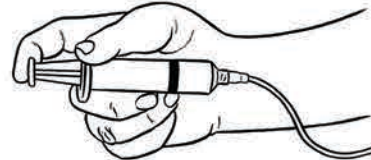
- 4 Double-check that the connection between your butterfly and your barrel is secure. 

- 5 Keep the syringe upright and push the plunger of the syringe until the fluid fills the line and tap to remove air bubbles. The line is now primed. 

HOW TO INSERT A BUTTERFLY


- 1 To hold the needle, grasp the plastic "wings" between your thumb and first finger. 
- 2 Hold the needle with the hole (the bevel) facing up and the sharp point down. The point of the needle will go 
- 3 Pierce the skin first at a 45-degree angle. Then lower the angle of the needle until it is almost parallel to the skin. 

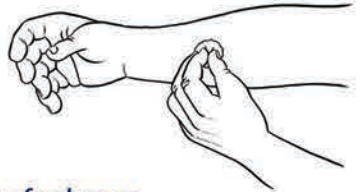
- 4 Enter the vein with a quick sure stick. If you approach the vein too slowly, it is more likely to roll. "Thread" the needle into the vein following the vein's direction under the skin. 

- 5 Once in the vein, you can start slowly injecting the liquid. If you need to, add a cotton ball under the wings to keep the needle in place and steady. 


- 6 Once all medicine has been injected you can change barrels and repeat if necessary, then remove the butterfly.

HOW TO REMOVE A BUTTERFLY

- 1 Before you remove the butterfly, make sure you have a cotton ball and a Band-Aid ready, open and next to you on a clean area. Press the cotton ball over the injection site. 
- 2 Remove the catheter or needle from the vein by pulling slowly and carefully toward your fingers.
- 3 Maintain the pressure from the cotton ball for at least 30 seconds or until any bleeding stops.

- 4 Apply a Band-Aid over the site and leave it in place for up to 24 hours. 

- 5 Dispose of used equipment in a safe sharps container, just like you would with other fits, tips and barrels.

- 6 Wash your hands after injecting as you normally do. 

WARNING!
Keeping a butterfly in longer than you need for your shot puts you at risk of a serious injury and/or infection.



You can get butterflies from NUAAs NSP at 345 Crown St Surry Hills or order through our postal service shop.nuaa.org.au

**CONTACT
NUAA
PEERLINE**

We are a confidential peer-run telephone service providing support and individual advocacy to people who use drugs, who are on the opioid treatment program or who are seeking treatment across NSW. Free call 1800 644 413 9am-5pm Mon-Fri (excludes public holidays) or email peerline@nuaa.org.au to connect with a friendly peer.