

# NEEDLES & SYRINGES

With so many types of needles and syringes available, we thought we would give you a quick guide to the types we stock, to help you ensure you are purchasing the right needle or syringe for the job.

## Needles

### Hypodermic Needles

A hypodermic needle is a hollow needle commonly used with a syringe to inject substances into the body or extract fluids from it. They may also be used to take liquid samples from the body, for example taking blood from a vein in venipuncture.

### Blunt Fill Needles

Designed to minimise the risk of 'needlestick' injuries (wounds caused by needles that accidentally puncture the skin.) Blunt fill needles are effective devices for filling and transferring medications from vials, ampoules, and IV bags to their final medication delivery reservoirs. These reservoirs include syringes for use with IV systems, Luer-Activated valves, IV bags, and syringes for skin injection.

### Multi-Sample Needles

Multi sample needles allow the user to collect more than one tube of blood without contaminating the tube or holder.

### Winged / Butterfly Infusion Sets

A device specialised for venipuncture: i.e for accessing a superficial vein for either intravenous injection or phlebotomy. It consists of a hypodermic needle, two flexible 'wings', flexible transparent tubing (often 20-35cm long) and lastly a connector. The butterfly's flexible tubing reaches more body surface and tolerates more patient movement.

### Needle Size Chart

Gauge	Colour	Size	Diameter
16G	White	1x1/2"	1.60mm
18G	Pink	1x1/2"	1.20mm
19G	Cream	1x1/2"	1.10mm
20G	Yellow	1", 1x1/4", 1x1/2"	0.90mm
21G	Green	1", 1x1/4", 1x1/2"	0.80mm
22G	Black	1", 1x1/4", 1x1/2"	0.70mm
23G	Blue	1", 1x1/4", 1x1/2"	0.60mm
24G	Purple	1", 1x1/4", 1x1/2"	0.55mm
25G	Orange	1", 1x1/4", 1x1/2"	0.55mm
26G	Brown	1/2", 1x1/2"	0.45mm



### Gauge

The word 'Gauge' describes the outer diameter of a needle. The higher the gauge, the smaller the diameter. For example, a 23 gauge needle is thinner than a 16 gauge needle.

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## Syringes

### Luer Lock

Generally used for injections requiring a secure connection of the syringe to another device. The tip is threaded for a 'locking fit', and is compatible with a variety of needles, catheters and other devices.

### Luer Slip

A friction-fit connection that requires the clinician to insert the tip of the syringe into the needle hub or other attaching device in a push and twist manner. This will ensure a connection that is less likely to detach. Simply sliding the attaching device onto the syringe tip will not ensure a secure fitting.

### Catheter Tip

Used for flushing (cleaning) catheters, gastrostomy tubes and other devices. Insert catheter tip securely into catheter or gastrostomy tube.

### Eccentric Luer Slip

Allows for work requiring closer proximity to the skin. Generally used for venipunctures and aspiration of fluids.

### Anatomy of a Syringe

