

# Fact Sheet: Non-Prescription Sale of Syringes What Pharmacists Need to Know



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Lack of access to new, sterile injection equipment is one of the primary risk factors that may lead to sharing of hypodermic needles and syringes, which puts people who inject drugs at high risk for HIV and hepatitis C (HCV), as well as for hepatitis B infection. California pharmacists are a part of the state's strategy to prevent the spread of HIV, HCV, and other infectious diseases.

## State law prioritizes public health goals related to sterile syringe possession that allows:

- Pharmacists and physicians to furnish syringes to adults 18 and older without a prescription;
- No limit on the number of syringes someone may possess for personal use; and
- Possession of syringes for personal use is no longer unlawful.

## Key Provisions of California Law

[Business and Professions Code Section 4145.5](#) permits the nonprescription sale of syringes by California pharmacies and [Assembly Bill 2077](#) (Ting, Chapter 274, Statutes of 2020) extended pharmacists' authority until January 2026.

## Pharmacies that furnish syringes without a prescription must:

- Provide for the safe disposal of needles and syringes by choosing one or more of the following options: selling or furnishing sharps containers or mail-back sharps containers, and/or providing on-site sharps collection and disposal;
- Provide written information or verbal counseling to customers at the time of sale on how to access drug treatment, access to testing and treatment for HIV and HCV, and information about how to safely dispose of sharps waste; and
- Store needles and syringes in a manner that ensures that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

## Available Resources:

- A [Patient Information Sheet](#) developed by CDPH/Office of AIDS ([Spanish version](#)) is available for download on the California State Board of Pharmacy website to inform pharmacy customers.
- The [Non-Prescription Syringe Sale Toolkit](#) includes additional information and resources and is available on the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS website.
- Harm Reduction Strategies for People Who Inject Drugs: [Considerations for Pharmacists](#).

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