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How Genentech Supports the Safe Collection and Proper Disposal of Used Sharps

Genentech is recognized as a sustainability leader and is committed to acting as a responsible corporate citizen in all of its activities.

We've taken steps to prevent unintentional needle-stick injuries among our patients, their families and others who may handle sharps used with our self-injected medicines.

As a manufacturer, we have responsibility—along with doctors, pharmacists, municipalities and patients—to help facilitate the proper handling and disposal of needles. We take this responsibility seriously, and work to educate patients about how to safely handle and dispose of our products.

General resources available to patients

To support our commitment to preventing needle-stick injuries we provide a number of resources to our patients, including:

- injection devices with protective sheaths;
- sharps containers; and,
- information and tools on safe injection and proper syringe disposal.

As a general resource, we offer a tool to help patients find local sharps disposal locations for their used sharps. "Dealing with Used Sharps Responsibly: A Guide for Patients," [<http://www.gene.com/gene/sharps/>] links to information about disposal locations throughout the United States provided by state and local governments and other organizations.

Guidance on proper use and disposal of sharps for specific medicines

Genentech currently markets and sells three self-injected medicines in California:

- Fuzeon (enfuvirtide)
- Nutropin [somatropin (rDNA origin) for injection]
- Pegasys (peginterferon alfa-2a)

Fuzeon

Fuzeon is supplied as a powder that must be reconstituted. Patients are provided with a "convenience kit," which contains all items necessary for use of Fuzeon, including safety syringes for reconstituting and injecting the medicine. Specialty pharmacies providing Fuzeon to patients also provide sharps containers to Fuzeon patients free of charge. In addition, patients and/or caregivers can obtain sharps containers from Genentech free of charge.

Fuzeon patient information literature references safe injection and appropriate disposal of used sharps. Patients are encouraged to not throw used sharps into trash or recycling containers and to contact their healthcare provider or pharmacy for disposal information.

The Fuzeon page on this website [<http://www.gene.com/gene/products/information/fuzeon/>] also provides a link to the “Dealing with Used Sharps Responsibly” page.

Nutropin

Nutropin provides safe management and collection education to patients and caregivers in a number of ways. Nutropin is distributed through specialty pharmacies, which are contracted to provide appropriate needle disposal methods to patients. All patients receive a Patient Education Kit. The kits include instructional brochures and a DVD, which communicates the need for proper disposal of used sharps. The information encourages patients to contact their healthcare provider for proper disposal methods. Patients may also call the Nutropin Nurse Hotline (866-Nutropin) for information on proper disposal and to obtain a sharps container.

Pegasys

Pegasys is a once-weekly injectable which is supplied as a solution in vials, pre-filled syringes, as well as an autoinjector (“ProClick”). The pre-filled syringes include a needle guard. The needle in the autoinjector is not exposed and includes a safety shield.

The Pegasys team provides a variety of resources to patients to encourage the proper handling and disposal of sharps. The key resource is the Patient Starter Kit. A free sharps container is provided with every Starter Kit. Instruction on proper needle disposal is provided on the container itself. The website address for the “Dealing with Used Sharps Responsibly” page and the 800 number where patients can inquire about sharps disposal are listed on the container. The Patient Starter Kit also includes a self-injection guide and patient information DVD, which both include information about proper handling and disposal of used needles.

Genentech also provides a website for Pegasys [<http://www.pegasys.com/patient/index.html>], which makes available to patients videos as well as printable copies of self-injection guides which include information about proper needle disposal for both the prefilled syringe and the autoinjector. In addition, patients may download from the website the FDA approved Pegasys Medication Guide, which also includes information on how to properly dispose of used needles, syringes and the autoinjector.

In addition, Genentech offers patient education classes, which include information about safe self-injection technique and proper used needle handling and disposal.

The information above also comprises Genentech’s plan for the safe collection and proper disposal of self-injected medical devices under California Public Resources Code section 47115 and Minnesota Statutes section 116.835.

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A copy of this plan has been posted at the following link on Genentech’s internet website: <http://www.gene.com/gene/sharps/plan.html>.