



World Health Organization

REVISED INJECTION SAFETY ASSESSMENT TOOL (TOOL C - REVISED)

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Tool for the Assessment of Injection Safety and
the Safety of Phlebotomy, Lancet Procedures,
Intravenous Injections and Infusions

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Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland

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Contents

Abbreviations	2
Introduction.....	3
Definitions: Safe Injection, Phlebotomy, Lancet Procedure or Intravenous Device Insertion	5
Procedures That Can Be Assessed Using Tool C – Revised	6
Requirements of an ‘injection safety’ assessment tool	10
Objectives of an Assessment	11
Study design.....	12
Sampling procedure	15
Human subjects.....	21
Data collection procedure	22
Organization of the fieldwork.....	25
Data entry and analysis	28
Reporting.....	29
Table 5a: Assessment items reflecting risks to patients.....	30
Table 5b: Indicators reflecting risk to the provider	34
Table 5c: Indicators reflecting risk to the community	37
References.....	38
Annex 1: Proposed schedule for an assessment of 160 facilities.....	39
Annex 2: Data Collection Instrument	41
Annex 3: Installing and using Epi Info™	
Annex 4: Data entry and analysis using Epi Info™	
Annex 4: Monitoring and Evaluation of Practices by a Supervisor.	

Abbreviations

AD	auto-disable (syringes)
BASICS II	Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival II
CHG	Chlorhexidine gluconate
DAP	Drug Action Programme (WHO)
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization (WHO)
HCP	health care provider
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
IMCI	integrated management of childhood illness
IRB	Institutional Review Board
MEASURE	monitoring and evaluation to assess and use results
OPD	Out-patient department
RPF	Re-use Prevention Features
SIGN	Safe Injection Global Network
TST	time, steam and temperature
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Introduction

Tool C for the assessment of the safety of injections was first implemented in 2000, and has been used in over 90 national injection safety assessments since then. Owing in part to the use of *Tool C*, awareness about the importance of injection safety has improved in many countries, and an increased awareness of the importance of safety for other invasive procedures in health services has been stimulated. To respond to that need, WHO reviewed the lessons learned during field implementation of *Tool C* and applied those when designing an updated tool (*Tool C – Revised*), a tool for the assessment of unsafe practices associated with injections, phlebotomies, lancet procedures and intravenous procedures.

The safety of injections, phlebotomies, lancet procedures and intravenous procedures should be assessed using standardized, representative, simple and flexible methods that allow for a reliable assessment of the country situation and for comparisons with other countries. Additionally, if an assessment is done before the introduction of interventions to improve procedure safety, repetition of an assessment can measure safety achievements over time. *Tool C – Revised* proposes a standardized methodology including concepts, study designs, sampling procedures, data collection methods and templates, and a plan for analysis and reporting for country safety assessments.

An assessment using *Tool C – Revised* can estimate the risk of infections associated with unsafe practices for each procedure type, determining whether a facility meets requirements for equipment, supplies and waste disposal, identifying unsafe practices and estimating the proportion of health care facilities in which practices are safely or unsafely performed. To incorporate an ability to assess the safety of procedures in the private sector, the sampling strategy has been adjusted to include sampling of service sites located in the same geographic areas as the public facilities randomly sampled from government facility lists. The ability to focus an assessment on a particular type of service, facility or procedure enables an assessment to target areas of concern within a health system; however, *Tool C – Revised* can be used in a comprehensive assessment of the most common invasive procedures used throughout healthcare services in both the public and private sectors.

Training materials included in the package permit standardization of data collection, which remains both observational and interview-based. Data entry, analysis and reporting templates are also provided to facilitate the process of developing raw data into a report that can transfer knowledge to health care providers, system administrators and policy decision makers. Recommendations following from an assessment can focus on three major considerations that are especially relevant in the assessment of practices: 1) the safety of the procedure recipient; 2) the safety of the health care worker; and, 3) the safety of the community.

Although the main purpose for this assessment tool is to assess procedure safety at a national level, it also may be used at other levels. If a country is large and has many health facilities, assessments can be performed at a sub-national level (province or state) without changes in the sampling strategy. An abbreviated version of the questionnaire that is included can be used for supervision of practices at a district level or within a facility, or even for self-assessment by providers.

Tool C – Revised is designed to target public and private facilities providing primary care, including first and second level hospitals. It is not designed for assessment of tertiary care

hospitals, such as university hospitals and specialty hospitals. The out-patient departments (OPD) of larger hospitals may also be appropriate sites to evaluate in an assessment if they have an administration and equipment supply (for the procedures evaluated in this assessment) that are separate from other units of the hospital.

To enable countries to conduct assessments efficiently, *Tool C – Revised* is also designed so that most countries will be able to implement the methodology without external assistance and with a minimum of time and resources. That efficiency and its adaptability make *Tool C – Revised* suitable for assessment of the safety of injections, phlebotomies, lancet procedures and intravenous procedures in a wide variety of contexts using methods that are standardized, representative and reliable.

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