

MOST IMPORTANT
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No.F.6-7/2026-MD (M-135)
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination
Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan

Islamabad, the 1st July, 2026

Subject: MANDATORY TRANSITION FROM CONVENTIONAL TO SAFETY-ENGINEERED REUSE-PREVENTION (RUP) SYRINGES AND RESTRICTIONS ON MANUFACTURE/ IMPORT/ SALE OF CONVENTIONAL SYRINGES

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), in exercise of its statutory power and mandate provided under the DRAP Act, 2012, strives to safeguard public health by ensuring that Therapeutic goods conform to international standards of quality, safety, and performance. Pursuant to the directives of the Prime Minister's Office, a taskforce was constituted by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C) on 5th May, 2026, to investigate the reported surge of HIV cases associated with unsafe medical practices, particularly the alleged reuse of contaminated syringes and deficiencies in infection prevention and control mechanisms.

2. To eliminate this public health risk, the findings and recommendations of the taskforce were placed before the Policy Board of DRAP in its 65th meeting held on 23rd June, 2026. The Board expressed grave concern over the epidemiological findings connecting iatrogenic transmission directly due to unsafe injection practices and the reported reuse of conventional syringes in some healthcare facilities. Directives of Policy Board were considered by the Medical Device Board (MDB) in its 135th meeting held on 30th June, 2026 and MDB *interalia* decided as under: -

- i. There shall be a complete ban on the manufacture, import & sale of conventional 1cc (non-insulin) disposable syringes and transit to safety-engineered reuse-prevention (RUP) syringes equipped with validated auto-destructible, retractable, or auto-lock technologies. To ensure a smooth transition and prevent supply chain deficits, the Board fixed December 31, 2026, as the definitive cut-off date after which all manufacture, import and sale of the aforementioned conventional syringes shall stand legally prohibited.
- ii. There shall be a complete ban on the retail/market sale of conventional 10 cc disposable syringes effective from 1st January 2027. Thereafter only safety-engineered reuse-prevention (RUP) syringes equipped with validated auto-destructible, retractable, or auto-lock technologies shall be available for market/retail sale. The Board decided to restrict the supply of conventional 10cc syringes exclusively to public and private secondary and tertiary healthcare hospitals/institutions for specialized clinical procedures, subject to the following mandatory conditions:

- a) Manufacturers and importers are mandated to ensure that the name of the procuring institution is indelibly and clearly printed on the individual syringe primary packaging.
- b) Procuring institutions shall be responsible for establishing internal inventory safeguards to completely eliminate pilferage outside their facilities.
- c) To maintain the track record of 10cc conventional syringe supplied to secondary & tertiary health care hospitals/institutions, relevant manufacturers, importers and procuring institutions shall report/upload relevant end to end manufacturing/import, procurement, supply & utilization data of conventional 10cc syringes w.e.f. 01-01-2027 in digital portal to be developed and shared by DRAP before the aforementioned deadline.

3. Recognizing the Provincial Health Departments as essential strategic partners in safeguarding public health, their proactive leadership and enforcement mechanisms are critical in ensuring a smooth and effective transition away from unsafe injection practices. You are, therefore, requested to implement the aforesaid directives/decisions of the Board and ensure compliance, please.


(AYYAZ AHMAD)

Secretary Medical Devices Board

Distribution:

1. The Secretary, Health & Population Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore.
2. The Secretary, Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department, Government of the Punjab, Lahore.
3. The Secretary, Health Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar
4. The Secretary, Health Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
5. The Secretary, Health Department, Government of Baluchistan, Quetta.
6. The Secretary, Health Department, Government of Gilgit Baltistan, Gilgit
7. The Secretary, Health Department, Government of AJ&K, Muzaffarabad.
8. Joint Secretary (Hospitals), M/o NHS, R&C, Islamabad.
9. Director General Health, M/o NHS, R&C, Islamabad.
10. Director QA<, DRAP Islamabad.

Copy for information & further necessary action, if any, to:

1. Director MD&MC, DRAP, Islamabad.
2. Director MIS, DRAP, Islamabad with request to upload on DRAP's website.
3. Director to Secretary, Ministry of NHS, R&C, Islamabad.
4. DD to CEO, DRAP, Islamabad.
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