ADA Forsyth®

Animal Program Policy

Title: **Rodent Injection**
Date Created: 09/05/2013
Date Reviewed: 09/30/2026

Rats and mice are typically injected with various substances via the peritoneum (IP injection), the skin (intradermal or subcutaneous injection) the musculature (IM injection) or the circulation (tail vein injection). In many cases, large numbers of animals are injected at one time.

In order to the balance the need for efficiency, conservation of materials and safety and sterility, the Forsyth IACUC has adopted the following policy on the reuse of needles for rodent injections.

1. For intraperitoneal, intradermal, subcutaneous or intramuscular injection, one syringe/needle may be used for all of the mice in one cage (one needle per cage policy), or for a maximum of five mice total if the mice are randomized between cages.
2. Needles must not be recapped between animals. Syringes may be placed inside a 50 ml tube between animal injections.
3. Safe handling of the contaminated needle/syringe is important to prevent an occupational needle stick. The operator must keep his/her hands/fingers behind the contaminated needle at all times. If the needle is bent or is damaged, dispose of the uncapped needle/syringe in the sharps container and get a new syringe/needle
4. For tail vein injections, single use of needles and syringes is required.
5. Dispose of all syringes/needles in the designated sharps container. **Do not recap needles for disposal.**