

# Needle Gauge Resource List

## COMMON USES FOR NEEDLE BY GAUGE SIZE

### Overview:

There is currently no peer-reviewed research showing which needles work best in different situations. This resource comes from the Harm Reduction Coalition and Syringe Service Programs in Minnesota. The information here can serve as a starting point, but individual preferences may vary.

The gauge (abbreviated as “G”) of a needle refers to the size of the hole in the needle. The higher the gauge, the smaller the hole. Needles come in various gauges and lengths. The length of a needle is listed after the gauge number. For example, 25G ½ refers to a 25 gauge, ½ inch-long needle. Longer needles (½ inch or longer) are commonly used for intramuscular injections, while shorter (shorter than ½ inch) needles are more often used for intravenous injections.

Different sized needles are used for different purposes. For areas of the body with smaller veins like the hands or feet, a higher gauge needle or butterfly needle is commonly used. Please use the table below to understand what gauge needle is commonly used for different purposes (e.g., intramuscular injection, intravenous injection).

### Needle Gauge Resource List

Needle Gauge:	Needle Length:	Used for:
18	1 Inch	Transferring intramuscular hormones from vial to syringe
21		Intramuscular injections (e.g., naloxone, steroids, hormones)
22	½ inch	Intramuscular injections (hormones)
23	1 Inch	Intramuscular injections (e.g., naloxone, steroids, hormones), methadone
25	1 Inch	Intravenous drug use, intramuscular hormone administration, intravenous crushed pills
27	½ inch	Standard insulin set, intravenous drug use
28	½ inch	Standard insulin set, intravenous drug use
29	½ inch	Intravenous drug use
30	½ or 5/16 inch	Intravenous drug use
31	5/16 inch	Intravenous drug use

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[www.health.state.mn.us/syringe](http://www.health.state.mn.us/syringe)

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