

[SB 895: An Act Concerning Changes to Various Pharmacy Statutes](#) – Access to sterile syringe supplies

Access to sterile syringe supplies has been demonstrated to reduce infectious diseases, (HIV & HCV-which is on the rise in CT) by decreasing sharing of non-sterile syringes between persons.

We have an epidemic of opioid use and syringe use in our state.

Clients can only obtain these syringes during usual business hours of pharmacies and syringe programs. This limits access to sterile equipment and safe disposal. They also can be purchased from small stores selling under the counter for expensive prices.

Vending machines are managed by qualified syringe Service Programs with knowledgeable licensed care providers and case managers trained in the science of substance use disorders. The vending machine has information 24/7 for access to treatment and mental health assistance 24/7 for this medical disease and direct safe link to providers. This is a safe alternative for clients.

In short, the advantages are:

-reduced infection transmission (non-sharing needles and syringes)

- linked to community substance use disorder programs for monitoring and refilling***
- clean***
- have a disposal bin for used needles that is safely locked and can be used by insulin users***
- managed daily by trained staff***
- open 24/7***
- meeting clients where they are and not monitored on sight but through an integrated computer system to monitor usage by client secret code linked to that client with an access card or code***
- clients are not always welcome in pharmacies to purchase syringes and can only obtain 10 per week (some clients can use 10 per day)***
- not competition to any business***
- removes access of syringes to illegal sources***
- allows access to Narcan that is often in the same vending machine along with bandages and sterile cleaning supplies (these supplies can vary)***
- builds trust between the clients and the treatment centers***