

# INJECTION HELPERS

● By Kelly Rawlings

## 17 tools to ease the task of taking shots

Injecting insulin can be challenging if you have limited sensation or pain in your hands, vision problems, or are afraid of needles. Fortunately, clever inventors have developed products that can give people with diabetes a little help with their injections. In this section, we've included products that help people with dexterity problems 🖐️, vision impairment 👁️, and needle anxiety 😬. To find many of these products, ask your pharmacist or check online health-product stores.

TO FIND MANY OF THESE PRODUCTS, ASK YOUR PHARMACIST OR MEDICAL SUPPLY RETAILER, OR CHECK ONLINE HEALTH-PRODUCT STORES.

### DOSING AIDS



#### COUNT-A-DOSE (Prodigy)

This allows a blind or visually impaired person to fill a syringe with the desired amount of insulin. A syringe is placed in Count-a-Dose so that the needle inserts into an insulin vial, located in the device's vial holder. Then, with each click of a dial, the user measures one unit of insulin, up to 50. Count-a-Dose has places for two insulin vials. Raised dots on the vial holder allow the user to know by touch which vial is which. The aid works only with Becton, Dickinson and Co. (BD) 50-unit (½ cc) insulin syringes. 👁️ [prodigymeters.com](http://prodigymeters.com)

#### SAFE SHOT (Borin-Halbich)

This device guides the plunger of a syringe and can be preset to allow a person to draw the same insulin dose with each use. 🖐️ 👁️ [borinhalbich.com](http://borinhalbich.com)



### Site Selection

#### TARTOOS (Visual Medical)

This temporary tattoo helps users rotate injection, infusion set, and continuous glucose monitor sensor sites. It's a 6- by 4-inch grid of 20 small images, the injection bull's-eyes. Before injection or insertion, the image at that spot is removed with an antiseptic wipe. Available in robot, flower, and medical icon images. [myvisualmedical.com](http://myvisualmedical.com)



### Learning Toy

#### JERRY THE BEAR

#### (Sproutel)

This plush bear (\$299) is designed to help children ages 3 and older master diabetes self-management skills. Powered with a rechargeable battery, Jerry "speaks" high and low blood glucose symptoms. Interactive storyboards encourage kids to practice counting carbs and simulate giving insulin to Jerry with his toy insulin pen. [jerrythebear.com](http://jerrythebear.com)



## MAGNIFICATION

### INSUL-EZE (AmbiMed)

This clear plastic tube holds an insulin vial steady and fits over the barrel of a syringe, magnifying its markings by two times. Insul-Eze fits most standard insulin syringes (1 cc, ½ cc, and 3/10 cc) and vials. 🖐️👁️ [ambimedinc.com](http://ambimedinc.com)



### SYRINGE MAGNIFIER (Apothecary)

This device clips on to any standard 1-cc or ½-cc syringe barrel to magnify its markings by two times. 👁️ [apothecaryproducts.com](http://apothecaryproducts.com) (minimum order: \$50)



### MAGNI-GUIDE (BD)

This clear plastic tube fits over the barrel of a syringe, magnifying its markings by 1.7 times. The needle end of BD's Magni-Guide fits snugly with Eli Lilly insulin vials, which helps with stability while drawing insulin. (Insulin vials from other manufacturers may not fit properly.) 🖐️👁️ [bd.com/us](http://bd.com/us)



## NEEDLE SAFETY

### SECURITEE BLANKET (Regato Enterprises)

Like a cozy, this product fits around an insulin vial to make it easier to grip and less likely to break if dropped. Available in three sizes to fit standard insulin vials and in five colors. 🖐️ [securiteeblanket.com](http://securiteeblanket.com)



### INJECTION SAFETY GUARD (Apothecary)

This attachment fits over the cap of an insulin vial, creating a barrier that protects the hand holding the vial from accidental needle sticks. 🖐️👁️ [apothecaryproducts.com](http://apothecaryproducts.com) (minimum order: \$50)



### VIAL SAFE (Vial Safe)

This silicone case protects insulin vials from breaking and helps users get a good grip while drawing insulin. Available in two sizes to fit most standard insulin vials. 🖐️ [vialsafe.com](http://vialsafe.com)



### INSUL-CAP (AmbiMed)

This plastic cap attaches to the top of most standard insulin vials, helping users draw insulin into a syringe by increasing stability. To use, open the lid, insert the needle into the cap, draw the insulin, and then remove the syringe from the cap for injection. Available in blue and orange, two of each color per pack, to help distinguish types of insulin. 🖐️👁️ [ambimedinc.com](http://ambimedinc.com)



## INJECTION AIDS



### INSUFLON (IntraPump Infusion Systems)

This patch-like device reduces the number of needle injections. The cannula is inserted into the skin at a 20- to 45-degree angle with a needle as the guide. The needle is removed, leaving the flexible cannula under the skin. Injections are made into a plastic tube that lies flat against the skin. The port must be replaced at least every three days. Compatible with syringe or injection pens. Available by prescription only. 😊  
[intrapump.com](http://intrapump.com)



### INJECT-EASE (AmbiMed)

Inserting a loaded syringe into Inject-Ease completely hides the syringe and needle. The tip of the device is pressed against the skin, and then a button on the other end is compressed to automatically inject the insulin. Users can personalize the injection depth. Designed to work with BD syringes.

😊👇  
[ambimedinc.com](http://ambimedinc.com)

### AUTOJECT 2 (Owen Mumford)

This aid automates insulin injection with a variety of syringes. After securing a loaded syringe inside the Autoject 2, users can deliver insulin at the push of a button and without a visible needle. Additional features include a safety mechanism that prevents accidental firing, adjustable needle penetration depth, and an indicator that changes color when the injection is complete. The Autoject 2 EI model allows users to know by feel when an injection is complete. 🙌😊👁️  
[owenmumford.com/us](http://owenmumford.com/us)

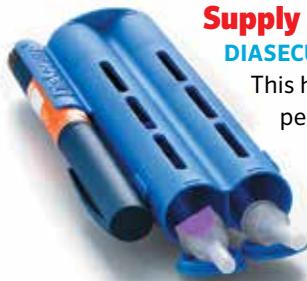


## Supply Storage

### DIASECURE (Diabetes Secure)

This hard plastic case holds an insulin pen, pills, unused pen needles, and used pen needles, keeping them secure until you're able to properly dispose of them.

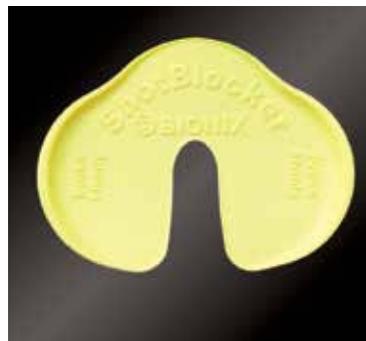
Available in six colors. 🙌  
[diabetessecure.com](http://diabetessecure.com)



## PAIN RELIEF

### BUZZY (MMJ Labs)

This vibrating device reduces the pain of injections by distracting the user. It has a cold pack on the back and is placed near the injection or infusion set site prior to injection. The combination of cold and vibration can diminish the sensation of the needle. It comes in two sizes and is available in ladybug, bee, and plain black versions. 😊  
[buzzy4shots.com](http://buzzy4shots.com)



### SHOTBLOCKER (Bionix Medical Technologies)

This flexible plastic disk has a grid of blunt points on its underside. When pressed against the skin around an injection site, the numerous contact points provide distraction from the sensation of an injection. 😊  
[bionixmed.com](http://bionixmed.com)  
(minimum order: box of 50)