

# Clinical Notice

FDA Safety Recommendation: October 2018



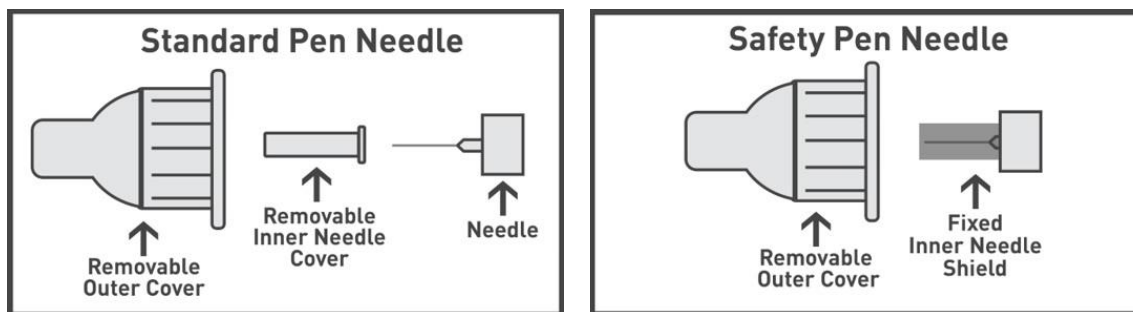
## Are you injecting medications safely?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released recommendations to encourage the safe use of pen needles for injecting medications. Pen needles are used with pen injectors to administer injectable medications. Typically, the same pen injector can be used with either **standard** or **safety** pen needles.

### Standard vs Safety: What's the difference?

It is important to know which pen needle you are using so your medication is injected properly. Both needles may look similar, but there are important differences between the two.

- **Standard Pen Needles** have a **removable outer** cover and a **removable inner** needle cover. Remove both the outer and inner covers before use. If you do not remove the inner cover, the needle will not go into your skin and no medication will be delivered.
- **Safety Pen Needles** have a **removable outer** cover and a **fixed inner** needle shield. Remove only the outer cover before use. The fixed inner needle shield is designed to prevent injuries from the needle and should not be removed.



### Your safety is important

Every time you receive a new box of pen needles, look to see if they are the same type you were already using. If they are not the same, ask a healthcare professional how the new type is used.

If you think the medicine delivered by your pen injector is not working or if you have questions about your pen needle, speak with a healthcare provider.



We are here around the clock to help you with questions you have regarding your prescription benefits. Contact Member Services at **866.516.3121** or **MemberServices@CastiaRx.com**.

**References:** *Caution When Using Pen Needles to Inject Medicines: FDA Safety Communication. Food and Drug Administration Web site. <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm621788.htm>. Updated September 27, 2018. Accessed October 2, 2018.*

