

General Chapter <1> Injections
Section on Labeling and Cap Overseals
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Labeling on Ferrules and Cap Overseals

Healthcare practitioners using injectable products must be able to easily see and act on labeling statements that convey important safety messages critical for the prevention of imminent life-threatening situations. These cautionary labeling statements must be simple, concise, and devoid of nonessential information. Products that do not require cautionary statements should be free of information, so that those with cautionary statements are immediately apparent. Accomplishing this requires a systematic approach to labeling of injectable products, and one that assures that the ferrule and cap overseal—an area of these products that is highly visible to practitioners as they use these medicines—is reserved for critical safety messages. Accordingly:

1. Only cautionary statements may appear on the top (circle) surface of the ferrule and/or cap overseal of a vial containing an injectable product. The cautionary statement should appear on both the ferrule and cap but may appear solely on the ferrule if the cap overseal is transparent and the cautionary statement beneath the cap is readily legible. A cautionary statement is one intended to prevent an imminent life-threatening situation and may include instructional statements that provide potency or other safety-related instructions if warranted. Examples of such statements include but are not limited to: “Warning–Paralyzing Agent” and “Dilute Before Using.” The cautionary statement should be printed in a contrasting color and clearly visible under ordinary conditions of use.
2. If no cautionary statement is necessary, the top surface of the vial, including the ferrule and cap overseal, must remain blank.
3. Other statements or features including but not limited to identifying numbers or letters, such as code numbers, lot numbers, company names, logos, or product names, etc., may appear on the side (skirt) surface of the ferrule on vials containing injectable products but not on the top (circle) surface of the ferrule or cap overseal. The appearance of such statements or features on the skirt surface of the ferrule should not detract from, or interfere with, the cautionary statement on the top surface.

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