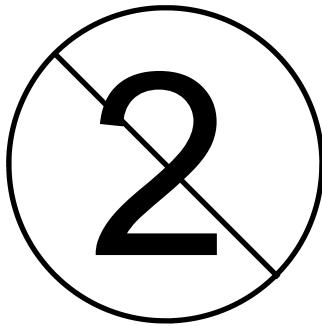


# Single-use medical devices

## How do I know if a device is for single-use?

It will have this symbol on the packaging or the device:



## What does single-use mean?

**Do not reuse.** A single-use device is used on an individual patient during a single procedure and then discarded. It is not intended to be reprocessed and used again, even on the same patient.

## Is single-patient use the same as single-use?

**No.** Single-patient use means the medical device may be used for more than one episode of use on **one patient only**; the device may undergo some form of **reprocessing** between each use.

## Why shouldn't they be reused?

The MHRA is aware of serious incidents relating to reuse of single-use devices.

Reuse can be unsafe because of risk of:

- **cross-infection** — inability to clean and decontaminate due to design.
- **endotoxin reaction** — excessive bacterial breakdown products, which cannot be adequately removed by cleaning.
- **patient injury** — device failure from reprocessing or reuse because of fatigue, material alteration and embrittlement.
- **chemical burns or sensitisation** — residues from chemical decontamination agents on materials that can absorb/adsorb chemicals.

Also, if you reuse a single-use device you may be legally **liable** for the safe performance of the device.

## Can I sterilize a single-use device?

A few single-use devices are marketed as non-sterile. These may require processing, in line with the manufacturer's instructions, to make them sterile and ready for use. You must not resterilize them.