ApiJect™

Field Research Executive Summary – October 2025

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To guide Apiject's design development of BFS-based prefilled injection devices led by the ApiLabs team, intended user-insights have been incorporated into the core research process since 2022 and the establishment of ApiLabs Field Research Network.

To date, the Network has worked with over 1000 participants, learning from patients, community health workers (CHWs), healthcare professionals (HCPs), and key supply chain stakeholders to inform design development from the intended markets of Apiject's technology. Working in urban, peri-urban, and rural locations across Kenya and multiple states in India ensures design feature insights are a synthesis of diverse perspectives and experiences of health care.

In September 2025, ApiLabs conducted field research across Maharashtra state, India, to interview over 50 users of injectable contraceptives. The research tested more than 100 water-filled samples of Apiject's prefilled Compact Pre-filled Auto-disable Device (CPAD) presenting for self-injection but with medical grade manikins. Additionally specific use-case insights were identified for the opportunity to increase access to injectable contraceptive delivery and widen the family planning 'basket of choice'.

Summary of Insights

Participants were provided with simple verbal instruction and a visual instruction For Use (IFU) and performed simulated injections with the water-filled samples into a manikin, This enabled feedback to explore the intuitive nature of the design without formal training.

78% of participants successfully activated and delivered on their first delivery attempt, increasing to 89% on the second delivery attempt. This result demonstrated that with minimal training, and the opportunity to practice, our design is fit for a range of injectors, from the client themselves (self-administering) through to a range of professionally trained healthcare providers.

A core element of device preparation is the activation of the BFS pre-filled dose into the body of the device, enablable the sterile chamber to be ready for delivery with a 160-degree twist. Initially 78% devices were activated on the

first attempt. By the second attempt, 100% of participants successfully activated the device.

Lastly, to deliver the dose the bellow shaped BFS container is pushed to compress and collapse, to many participants this feels intuitive. Leading to the successful delivery of 78% in attempt one and 89% in attempt two.

This quantitative observation was complimented with qualitative feedback and further discussion to identify the required optimization of the device design to meet both the Target Product Profile and the User Specific Requirements.

Design Feature Analysis

There is a strong acknowledgement from HCPs, CHWs, and women that the nature of Apiject's device being an accurate pre-filled dose will save time, reduce drug wastage and increase the number of providers.

"Before delivering a typical injection, we need to do multiple steps" … "if the current injection process takes 5-minutes, this would take just 2-3-minutes" – Nurse, urban Mumbai.

Alongside this feature, the device's one-time-use feature meets AD standards and the expectations of HCPs and CHWs, ensuring that each delivery is sterile, safe, and accurate.

"It is a good safety feature that that device cannot be used again. One-time-use is important to prevent infections" – Doctor, peri-urban Mumbai.

Since beginning design development, the device being small and discreet has been frequently commented on by participants, offering family planning privacy for the client. Additionally, being small has the potential to challenge needle phobia of injections, seen as a "less scary" delivery device.

"It doesn't look like an injection, one can also carry it around in their pocket and it can be hidden easily at home from husbands, in-laws, compared to other methods" – Women, rural Karjat.

All participants commented on the confidence of the device being easy to use, with transparency and dose delivery indication.

"The crumpled BFS is a good indicator that the dose is delivered, I can show that to patients who ask for confirmation" – Nurse, peri-urban Karjat.