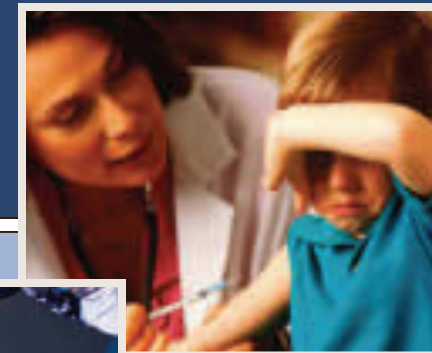


## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT AN INJURY

## A FACILITY'S "CULTURE OF SAFETY" IS IMPORTANT FOR SHARPS INJURY PREVENTION



### Be Prepared

- Organize your work area with appropriate sharps disposal containers within reach
- Work in well-lit areas
- Receive training on how to use sharps safety devices
- Before handling sharps, assess any hazards – get help if needed

### Be Aware

- Keep the exposed sharp in view
- Be aware of people around you
- Stop if you feel rushed or distracted
- Focus on your task
- Avoid hand-passing sharps and use verbal alerts when moving sharps
- Watch for sharps in linen, beds, on the floor, or in waste containers

### Dispose of Sharps with Care

- Be responsible for the device you use
- Activate safety features after use
- Dispose of devices in rigid sharps containers; do not overfill containers
- Keep fingers away from the opening of sharps containers

Facilities that value safety have fewer sharps injuries. Characteristics of such facilities include:

- Sharps injury prevention is a prominent organizational priority
- Management and staff have a shared commitment to prevent sharps injuries
- Staff is encouraged to report sharps injuries promptly
- Individual safety accountability is promoted



For more information:

[www.cdc.gov/sharpsafety](http://www.cdc.gov/sharpsafety)

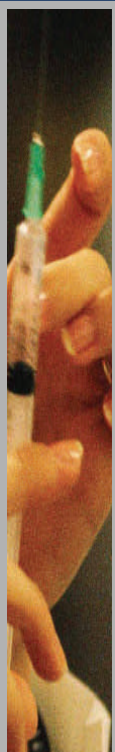


# Sharps Safety

for Healthcare Professionals



## YOU MAY BE AT RISK



Every day, more than 1,000 health care workers in the hospital setting are injured with a needle or other sharp device

### Most healthcare workers are at risk

What are your chances of infection from a contaminated sharps injury?

**Hepatitis B – 1 in 5** (if you're not vaccinated)

**Hepatitis C – 1 in 50**

**HIV – 1 in 300**

**After getting first aid, report sharps injuries. Report other sharp hazards you observe. You may help prevent someone else from being injured.**



## SHARPS SAFETY DEVICES CAN REDUCE INJURIES

Types of sharps safety devices that can be used to protect workers:

- Needle-free IV systems
- Sheathed, blunting, or retractable needles
- Blood transfer adapters
- Non-breakable plastic vacuum and capillary tubes
- Sharps disposal containers

### GET INVOLVED IN SELECTING AND EVALUATING THE DEVICES YOU USE

Employers are required to involve frontline workers in selecting devices with safety features.

Choose devices that

- Come attached with safety features that can not be removed
- Are easy to use with clear instructions
- Do not interfere with patient care
- Can be engaged with one hand
- Enable hands to remain behind the exposed sharp
- Are visibly different when activated



## INJURIES CAN OCCUR BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER USE OF A SHARP

### Examples of High-risk situations:

#### During patient care

- Inserting or withdrawing a needle
- Inserting needles into IV lines
- Handling or passing sharps

#### Immediately after sharp use

- Recapping a used needle
- Transferring or processing specimens

#### During and after sharp disposal

- Disposing of sharps into proper containers
- Cleaning up after a procedure
- Sharps left on floors and tables, or found in linen, beds, or waste containers

### **IN HOSPITALS, 80% (4 in 5) of SHARPS INJURIES ARE DUE TO THE USE OF:**

- Hypodermic needles/syringes
- Suture needles
- Winged-steel (butterfly-type) needles
- Blood collection needles
- Scalpels
- IV stylets

Many other devices, including glass, also cause sharps injuries.