



# SAFETY TALK

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

**Accidental exposure to contaminated sharps can expose healthcare workers to blood borne pathogens.**

### How should sharps be disposed of?

Facilities should have sharps containers readily available in areas that sharps are used. Workers should place needles in wide-mouth, puncture-proof containers. Replace containers when they reach the “full mark” on the container. Ensure they are sealed, collected, and disposed of in accordance with local regulations for biomedical waste.

### Areas you may find sharps inappropriately disposed of:

- In clinical areas on the ground, on surfaces, patient/resident rooms, or in trash cans
- Within materials sent to the laundry facilities
- Attached to equipment / on metal trays, trolleys, or items sent for decontamination
- Within overfilled or incorrectly assembled sharps containers

#### Items that belong in a sharps container

**Needles**  
**Scalpels/  
Blades**  
**Razors**  
**Scissors**

#### Sharps Safety Tips

- Use needles with safety mechanisms
- Dispose of sharps immediately after use
- Ensure sharps containers are located near the places that sharps are used
- Never recap a needle by hand
- Never carry an uncapped needle

Source: [Sharps Container Safety Poster.pdf](#)

*Safety is everyone's responsibility!*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

SAFETY TALK LEAD BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- WHAT IS A SHARP?
- HAVE YOU EVER ENCOUNTERED AN SHARP THAT WAS INAPPROPRIATELY DISCARDED?
- WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND AN INAPPROPRIATELY DISPOSED OF SHARP?

EMPLOYEE CONCERNS & IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

FOLLOW UP ON CONCERNS:

If you have any feedback on the Safety Talks program or a suggestion for a Safety Talk, please contact a member of the Wellness & Safety Team or email [healthpeihr@ihis.org](mailto:healthpeihr@ihis.org).

Safety Talks can be found on the Staff Resource Centre at: <https://src.healthpei.ca/safety-talks>