

NEEDLESTICK & SHARPS INJURIES



The Major Risk:

Transmission of potentially **life-threatening diseases** such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

Health PEI Incidents

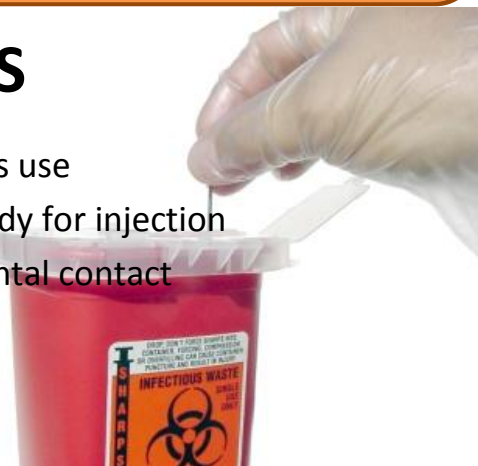
Between January 1 and June 30, 2017, there were **36** reported near misses or incidents related to needlesticks and sharps.

THE POTENTIAL DANGERS:

- Blood borne pathogen exposure from both freshly contaminated needles and/or those that have been left for some time.
- Physical injury due to sharps/needles being improperly handled or discarded.

PREVENTION TIPS

- Take **notice** of the closest sharps **container** prior to sharps use
- During use, keep needle pointed down until patient is ready for injection
- Remain **aware of presence of other staff** to avoid accidental contact
- Maintain **visual contact** with sharp during use
- Never recap used sharps
- Properly and safely engage needle covers when available
- Keep fingers **away from tips of device** and **avoid placing hands** close to the **opening of the container**
- **Empty** the container once it reaches **2/3rds capacity**
- **Secure** containers of used sharps **during transport** to prevent spillage
- **Report to a supervisor or change** overflowing sharps containers



It is important for employers and employees to be informed and work together to reduce and manage the risks.