



# SAFETY TALK

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

### What are Sharps?

Sharps are medical instruments that can cut or puncture the skin.

### Examples of Sharps

Needles	Scalpels/Blades	Razors
Scissors	Glass Ampoules	Dental Equipment



### Common areas to find inappropriately disposed sharps

- In clinical areas on the ground, on surfaces or in orange / black waste bags
- Within materials sent to the laundry facilities
- Attached to equipment / on metal trays, trolleys or containers sent for decontamination
- Within general / clinical waste areas
- In public toilets, other facilities or communal areas on the ground / in black waste bags
- Within overfilled or incorrectly assembled sharps containers

### How should sharps be disposed of?

Have disposal containers readily available. Workers should place needles in wide-mouth, puncture-proof containers. Locate disposal containers specifically where needles and sharps are used to make safe disposal possible. Replace the containers when they are at the “full mark” on the container. Ensure they are sealed, collected, and disposed of in accordance with local regulations for biomedical waste.

***All staff should report and fill out an incident in PSMS on every incident in which they find needles or sharps left at the bedside or thrown into the regular garbage.***

### 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
- Never try to retrieve items from a sharps container

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

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

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

IF YOU COME ACROSS AN INAPPROPRIATELY DISPOSED OF SHARP, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF SHARPS USED IN YOUR WORK AREA?

WHAT DO I DO IF I AM EXPOSED (CUT, PUNCTURED) WITH 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>