

# Safer Practice Notice

**Date:** July 21, 2017

**Topic:** Biohazard / Sharps Containers

**Situation:**

A child was witnessed inserting hand into a biohazard sharps container. The container **was not wall-mounted**. The sealed manufacturer's lid was placed correctly but still allowed enough space for the child's hand to fit through opening.

**Background:**

- All sharps containers are to be wall mounted with the correct manufacturer's mounting bracket.
- All sharps containers are to be sealed with the appropriate manufacturer's lid to correctly seal the container.

**Assessment:**

Inappropriate placement of containers, pose a risk to patients, family members and staff. Wall-mounted containers still pose a risk to staff if improper or ill-fitting lids are being used.

**Recommendation:**

Health PEI is recommending that all sites evaluate their biohazard containers, mounting practices and placements. Sharps containers must be wall-mounted using manufacturer's bracket and fitted with the proper manufacturer's lid.

Products are as follows:

- Locking Bracket 2 Gallon Safety Container Item # 8963 - Special order - Medtronic
- Covidien Sharpsafety Chemotherapy Container Item # 8982 CRH Oracle number 151515.0160

**For more information please contact:**

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