

Needle Handling and/or Disposal

Purpose

To guide the safe handling and disposal of used needles.

Objectives

To prevent needlestick injuries and exposure to the HIV (AIDS) and hepatitis B (HBV) viruses or other bloodborne infections through contact with blood or tissues.

Equipment and Supplies

1. Needle box;
2. Gloves (as indicated); and
3. Other as necessary or appropriate.

Safety Precautions

1. After using a needle, if the needle disposal box is directly available, discard the needle without recapping.
2. Place used needles in the needle disposal box. Do not bend, break, or cut needles. When the disposal box is almost filled, seal the box and store it in a rigid cardboard container marked "Biohazard" until incinerated or picked up by a licensed vendor for proper disposal.
3. Do not discard used or unused needles into trash receptacles.
4. In the event of a needlestick injury, the employee should:
 - a. Immediately wash the wound vigorously with soap and running water;
 - b. If desired, apply alcohol or hydrogen peroxide to the wound; and
 - c. Notify the supervisor or Infection Control Coordinator of the incident as soon as practical.