

Stay Sharp, Stay Safe!

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BACKGROUND

CDC released estimate of 600,000 to 800,000 occupational needlestick injuries to occur and can lead to serious or potentially fatal infections with blood-borne pathogens such as Hep. B Virus, Hepatitis C virus or HIV

-CDC estimates 385,000 injuries in contaminated needles and other sharp devices annually

- CDC estimates between 62-88% of sharps injuries can be PREVENTED
- In 2019, UK about 100,000 cases/yr.
- Australia, at least 18,000 cases every yr.
- In 2001, 4 NSI per 100 people have reported NSI (needle stick injury)
- As of Sept. 2022, the estimated cost of NSI ranges between \$500-\$4352 or more in expenditures for testing, F/U tests; lost time; disability payments; psychological care etc.

PURPOSE

Knowledge Enhancement- A refresher course/review for HCW's regarding preventable needle stick injuries in the workplace

- Highlights everyone's role in improving Needle Safety



METHODS

- Avoid recapping needles
- Before beginning any procedure using needles, plan for safe handling and proper disposal
- Use devices with safety features
- Report all needlestick and other sharps disposal containers
- Participate in bloodborne pathogen training and follow recommended infection prevention practices, including Hep. B vaccination
- Avoid leaving sharps lying around
- Do not bend/break needles before discarding them
- Place contaminated sharps/razors in approved disposal containers immediately after use
- Lock the container when it is three-quarters full using the closure mechanism- Do not press sharps down to make more room
- Do not try to retrieve items from a Sharps container
- Do not place sharps containers on the floor- They should be stored above knee level and below shoulder level
- Carry sharps containers by the handle- away from the body
- Keep all sharps waste in a designated, secure area until it is collected.
- If needed, use instruments rather than fingers to grasp needles.
- Double gloving
- Warn/ inform patients what you are trying to do

RESULTS

- Low incidence of reported Needle stick injuries in our workplace.
- Prevention of potentially fatal infections with blood borne pathogens such as Hep. B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus and HIV to HCW's
- Decreased incidence of worker's comp claims and days missed at work

CONCLUSIONS

Through this quick, easy review of needles-tick precautions- we are able to prevent NSI occurrences in our workplace thereby keeping staff healthy



REFERENCES

References available upon request

