

PREVENTING NEEDLESTICK INJURIES

EMPLOYER'S CHECKLIST



Exposure to bloodborne pathogens is preventable by providing a safe work environment through the implementation of engineering controls and safe needle devices. An effective needlestick injury prevention program includes:

- ☐ Eliminating use of needle devices where safe and effective alternatives are available. For example, needleless IV delivery systems can be used.
- ☐ Implementing use of needle devices with safety features, evaluating their use to determine effectiveness, and monitoring advances in safety technology to make informed purchasing decisions. This component of the ongoing process to update the exposure control plan legally must include input from health care workers who provide care directly to patients.
- ☐ Analyzing needlestick and other sharps-related injuries to identify hazards and injury trends, such as where incidents occur, how they occur, the type of device involved, and the prevalence of incidents among any particular group of health care workers.
- ☐ Setting priorities and prevention strategies by examining local and national information about risk factors for needlestick injuries and successful intervention efforts to reduce injuries.
- ☐ Ensuring that health care workers are properly trained in the safe use and disposal of needles.
- ☐ Changing (or eliminating) work practices that pose a needlestick injury hazard to make the work environment safer, such as recapping needles, improper disposal of sharp devices, passing or transferring sharp devices, and transferring blood.
- ☐ Promoting safety awareness in the work environment. For example, training should emphasize that safety precautions must be taken when a sharp device is involved in a procedure, even if precautions add steps or time to the procedure or seem to interfere with patient care.
- ☐ Establishing procedures for reporting and timely follow-up of needlestick and other sharps-related injuries, and encouraging health care workers to report injuries. This includes maintaining a sharps injury log with documentation of circumstances involved in an incident.
- ☐ Evaluating the effectiveness of prevention efforts and providing feedback on performance to determine compliance and where safety improvements can be made.



Source: NIOSH Alert: Preventing Needlestick Injuries in Healthcare Settings, Publication No. 2000-108, 1999.

For more information, visit
WWW.NEEDLESTICK.ORG

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