

INFECTION CONTROL SNAPSHOT

Sharps Safety Reminders



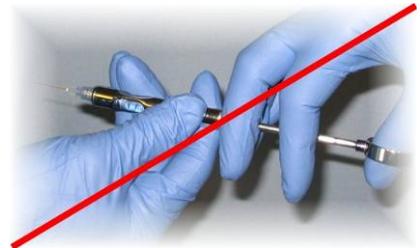
BE PREPARED ♦ BE AWARE ♦ DISPOSE WITH CARE

Before Beginning a Procedure—Be Prepared

- ☑ Organize equipment
- ☑ Ensure adequate lighting
- ☑ Keep sharps pointed away from user
- ☑ Locate a sharps disposal container

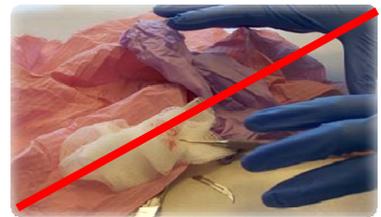
During a Procedure—Be Aware

- ☑ Maintain visual contact with sharps
- ☑ Be aware of nearby personnel
- ☑ Control the location of sharps to avoid injury
- ☑ Do not pass needles unsheathed
- ☑ Alert others when passing sharps
- ☑ Consider a neutral zone for placing/retrieving sharps
- ☑ Activate the safety feature of devices as soon as procedure is completed



During Cleanup—Dispose with Care

- ☑ Check procedure trays and waste materials for exposed sharps before handling
- ☑ Look for sharps/equipment left behind inadvertently
- ☑ Transport reusable sharps in a closed secure container



While Disposing Sharps

- ☑ Visually inspect the container for hazards caused by overfilling
- ☑ Keep your hands behind sharps
- ☑ Never put hands/fingers into sharps containers

After Disposing Sharps

- ☑ Visually inspect sharps container for overfilling
- ☑ Replace containers before they become overfilled
- ☑ Keep filled containers for disposal in a secure area



Summary

- ☑ Prepare to use the device *the moment the sharps are first exposed*
- ☑ Take precautions *while using sharps*
- ☑ Take precautions *during cleanup*
- ☑ Take precautions *during disposal*

???. Just a few things to think about ...???

- Do you use instrument cassettes to keep instruments organized chairside?
- Do you have a sharps container in each operatory?
- How do you transport contaminated items to instrument processing?

If you want more info

- CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings (www.cdc.gov/oralhealth).
- CDC. Sharps Safety: Be Sharp. Be Safe. (www.cdc.gov/sharpsafety).
- USAF Guidelines for Infection Control in Dentistry (<http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil/decs>).

