


PREVENTING NEEDLESTICK INJURIES

HEALTH CARE WORKER'S CHECKLIST

 Following proper work practice procedures will minimize the risk of needlestick injury. Here are practical steps you should take:

Prior to procedure using sharps:

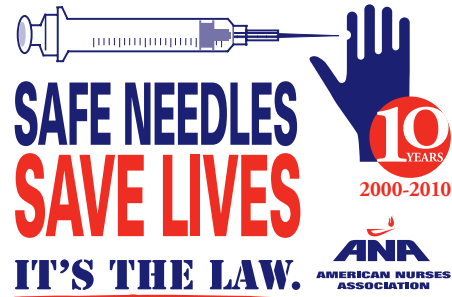
- ☐ Ensure all equipment is available and within arm's reach.
- ☐ Ensure lighting is adequate.
- ☐ Place a sharps disposal container nearby and know where it is located.
- ☐ Assess patient's capacity for cooperation; request additional help if patient needs to be physically stabilized.
- ☐ Instruct patient to avoid sudden movement.
- ☐ Do not expose sharps/needles until moment of use and keep pointed away from user.

During procedure:

- ☐ Maintain visual contact with sharps during use.
- ☐ Remain aware of positioning of other staff to avoid accidental contact.
- ☐ Do not pass sharps by hand; place and retrieve from predetermined centralized location/tray.
- ☐ Alert other staff when placing or retrieving sharps.

Post-procedure:

- ☐ Activate safety features of sharps and check (visual, auditory) to ensure features are activated and locked in place.
- ☐ Ensure all sharps are accounted for and visible.
- ☐ Check trays, linens, waste materials prior to handling for sharps accidentally misplaced or left behind.
- ☐ Transport reusable sharps in secured closed container.
- ☐ For non-reusable sharps, visually inspect disposal container to ensure device will fit.
- ☐ Keep fingers away from tip of device when disposing, and avoid placing hands close to the opening of the container.



For more information, visit
WWW.NEEDLESTICK.ORG

This educational project was developed exclusively by the American Nurses Association for the purpose of providing objective information regarding needlestick safety and prevention. Financial support was provided in part by BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company).

