

Staff Huddle: Safe Injection Practices Week #1

- ❑ **What is the risk?** Germs from the blood reservoir, such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C can spread when blood is on a sharp item. If that item causes a cut or break in the skin (e.g., an accidental needlestick), germs can spread to that person and cause a new infection.
- ❑ **Facts about Needlestick Injuries -**
 - Which infections can be caused by needlestick injuries? Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
 - Who is at risk?
 - Nursing staff, physician, technicians, lab personnel, doctors & housekeepers
 - When and how do injuries occur?
 - after use and before disposal of a sharp device (40%), during use of a sharp device on a patient (41%) & during or after disposal (15%)

Staff Huddle: Safe Injection Practices - Week #2

- ❑ **Type of needles causing sharp injuries**
 - Hypodermic needles
 - Blood collection needles
 - Suture needles
 - Needles used in IV delivery systems
- ❑ **Causes of needlestick injuries**
 - Recapping needles.
 - Failing to dispose of used needles properly in puncture-resistant sharps containers.
 - Over filled sharps containers

Staff Huddle: Safe Injection Practices - Week #3

- ❑ **How can I protect myself from needlestick injuries?**
 - Avoid recapping needles.
 - Do not remove needles from syringes by hand.
 - Do not bend, break, or manipulate needles by hand.
 - Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps disposal containers.
 - Avoid the use of needles where safe and effective alternatives are available.
 - Avoid over-filling sharps container. Only fill it about 75% full.
 - Report all needlestick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure that you receive appropriate follow up care.
 - Participate in training related to infection prevention.



Staff Huddle: Safe Injection Practices - Week #4

- ❑ Steps to take following a needlestick or sharps injury⁴
 - Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water.
 - Report the incident to your supervisor and fill out exposure report sheet.
 - Follow facility policies and procedures, for reporting your needlestick injury or exposure.
 - Assess if patient is willing to consent for disease testing if unknown status.
 - Immediately seek medical treatment, if indicated.
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