

CARE FOR U PLUS

177 Franklin Corner Rd, Ste 2B
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Phone: 609-985-0188
Fax: 609-895-0729

800 N. Kings Hwy, Ste 507
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Phone: 856-330-4797
Fax: 856-330-4806

100 Plainfield Ave, Ste 5
Edison, NJ 08817
Phone: 732-603-0020
Fax: 732-603-0025

How to Prevent Needlestick and Sharps Injuries

Needlestick and other sharps injuries are a serious hazard in any healthcare setting. Contact with contaminated needles, scalpels, broken glass, and other sharps may expose healthcare workers to blood that contains pathogens which pose a grave, potentially lethal risk.

Activities with Potential for Needlestick Injuries:

- Home healthcare workers can be at risk for needlestick or sharps injuries when they:
- Handle needles that must be taken apart or manipulated after use.
- Dispose of needles attached to tubing.
- Manipulate the needle in the client.
- Recap a needle.
- Use needles or glass equipment to transfer body fluid between containers.
- Fail to dispose of used needles in puncture-resistant sharps containers.
- Lack proper workstations for procedures using sharps.
- Work quickly.
- Bump into a needle, a sharp, or another worker while either person is holding a sharp.



CARE FOR U PLUS

177 Franklin Corner Rd, Ste 2B
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Phone: 609-985-0188
Fax: 609-895-0729

800 N. Kings Hwy, Ste 507
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Phone: 856-330-4797
Fax: 856-330-4806

100 Plainfield Ave, Ste 5
Edison, NJ 08817
Phone: 732-603-0020
Fax: 732-603-0025

Employers Should:

- Establish a bloodborne pathogen control program that meets all of the requirements of the OSHA bloodborne pathogens standard (<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html>).
- Eliminate the use of needle devices whenever safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Provide needle devices with safety features.
- Provide sharps containers for workers to bring into clients' homes.
- Investigate all sharps-related injuries.
- Provide post-exposure medical evaluations.

Employees Should:

- Avoid using needles whenever safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Avoid recapping or bending needles that might be contaminated.
- Bring standard-labeled, leak-proof, puncture-resistant sharps containers to clients' homes. Do not assume such containers will be available there. Promptly dispose of used needle devices and sharps,
 - which might be contaminated, in the containers.
- Plan for the safe handling and disposal of needles before use.
- Store sharps containers out of the reach of children, pets, and others not needing access.
- Secure used sharps containers during transport to prevent spilling.
- Follow standard precautions, infection prevention, and general hygiene practices consistently.
- Participate in your employer's bloodborne pathogens training program.
- Help your employer select and evaluate devices with safety features.
- Use devices with safety features provided by your employer.
- Report any needlestick and other sharps injury immediately to your employer.

If you experience a needlestick or sharps injury or are exposed to the blood or other body fluid of a client during the course of your work, immediately follow these steps:

- Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water.
- Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water.
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigants.
- Report the incident to your supervisor.