



## Policy and Procedure

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|------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Policy Name:           | Needlestick Safety Precautions  |                |  |
| Effective Date:        |   | Revision Date: |  |
| Department(s)/Site(s): |   |                |  |
| Document Owners:       |   |                |  |
| Approved By:           |   |                |  |
| Relevant Law/Standard: | <p>California Department of Health Care Services under Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 53230. (Requires the review and certification of Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) sites.)</p> <p>Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All Plan Letter 20-004, Facility Site Reviews.</p> <p>H.R.5178 - Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act</p> |                |  |

### **Purpose:**

In order to reduce or eliminate the hazards of occupational exposure, an employer must implement an exposure control plan for the worksite with details on employee protection measures. The plan must also describe how an employer will use a combination of engineering and work practice controls, ensure the use of personal protective clothing and equipment, provide training, medical surveillance, hepatitis B vaccinations, and signs and labels, among other provisions. Engineering controls are the primary means of eliminating or minimizing employee exposure and include the use of safer medical devices, such as needleless devices, shielded needle devices, and plastic capillary tubes.

### **Definitions:**

#### **Sharps with engineered sharps injury protections**

Devices that include non-needle sharps or needle devices containing built-in safety features that are used for collecting fluids or administering medications or other fluids, or other procedures involving the risk of sharps injury. This description covers a broad array of devices, including:

- syringes with a sliding sheath that shields the attached needle after use;
- needles that retract into a syringe after use;
- shielded or retracting catheters
- intravenous medication (IV) delivery systems that use a catheter port with a needle housed in a protective covering.

#### **Needleless Systems**

Devices which provide an alternative to needles for various procedures to reduce the risk of injury involving contaminated sharps. Examples include:

- IV medication systems which administer medication or fluids through a catheter port using non-needle connections
- Jet injection systems which deliver liquid medication beneath the skin or through a muscle.

**Policy:**

Clinic will use only needleless systems, needles with Engineered Sharps Injury Protection (ESIP) devices, and non-needle sharps (incl. in emergency kits), unless exemptions have been approved by Cal/OSHA (8CCR, Section 5193). Security of portable containers in patient care areas is maintained at all times. Any device capable of cutting or piercing (e.g. syringes, hypodermic needles, needleless devices, blades, broken glass, slides, vials) are placed in a closable, puncture-resistant, labeled, leak-proof container.

Contaminated sharps are discarded immediately. Sharps containers are located close to the immediate area where sharps are used, and are inaccessible to unauthorized persons. Sharps are not bent, removed from a syringe, or recapped except by using a one-handed technique.

**Reference**

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/106/hr5178>

[https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh\\_publications/bbpfcct.pdf](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/bbpfcct.pdf)

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