


# 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**

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