The Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act of 2000 modified the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard, which protects workers from exposure to blood that can carry disease. This standard requires employers to:

- Establish an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The plan:
  - Must be reviewed and updated continually to accurately reflect job duties which affect occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and employee positions with occupational exposure.
  - Must demonstrate that the process for identifying, evaluating and selecting engineering and work practice controls involved frontline workers who are potentially exposed to sharps injuries.
- Use engineering controls that isolate or remove bloodborne pathogen hazards from the workplace, such as sharps disposal containers, self-sheathing needles, sharps engineered with self-activating protective devices and needleless systems.
- Institute work practice controls that reduce chances of exposure to bloodborne pathogens through the practice of safe procedures.
- Utilize universal precautions to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- Provide personal protective equipment, such as gloves and masks.
- Make hepatitis B vaccinations available to employees with occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- Provide services including medical evaluation, testing, counseling and post-exposure prophylaxis to any worker who has an incident that could result in exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- Identify clearly the storage or disposal containers that may contain bloodborne pathogens.
- Provide information and training to employees on bloodborne pathogens and preventing exposure.
- Maintain a sharps injury log, documenting the type and brand of sharp device involved and an explanation of the incident.


For more information on exposure to bloodborne pathogens, visit: http://63.234.227.130/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html#standards

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).