



Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust

INJURY PREVENTION

Quick Review of Safety

Needle Sticks and Sharps Injuries

SHARPS USE

When using needles, remember the following best practices to avoid injury.

- Do not recap needles. It is too easy to miss the needle with the cap and poke a finger.
- Always use needle safety devices when available every time.
- Use needleless devices when available.
- Always pay attention to your surroundings and others when using needles. Many needle sticks occur when the patient moves unexpectedly or when sharps are disposed of improperly.
- Dispose of the needles in an approved sharps container; never dispose of a needle in the garbage

SHARPS CONTAINERS

- Keep the sharps containers out of the reach of children.
- Do not empty one sharps container into another
- Do not overfill the sharps container. Many needle stick injuries occur when someone tries to overfill a container. If a container is full, please report it to have it changed.

NEEDLE STICKS OR SHARPS INJURY

- Wash punctures or cuts with soap and water.
- Flush the nose, mouth or skin with water if there is a splash.
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline or sterile irrigates for eye exposure.
- Report the incident to your supervisor.
- Seek medical treatment.

This document is intended for general purposes only and should not be construed as legal or coverage advice on any specific matter.



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