

NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION

PROTECTING STAFF IN SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

Safe Sharps Practices Help Prevent Injuries, Exposure, and Workplace Stress



COMMON NEEDLESTICK HAZARDS & SAFETY GUIDANCE



Resident Rooms



Laundry & Linen Bags



Trash Collection



Medication Carts



Sharps Containers

Needlestick injuries can expose employees to bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV

DAILY SAFETY HABITS



- ✓ Never recap used needles
- ✓ Dispose of sharps immediately. Never leave lying around
- ✓ Wear gloves and PPE
- ✓ Never blindly reach into trash bags, linen carts, or drawers
- ✓ Replace sharps containers at $\frac{3}{4}$ full (Don't Overfill)
- ✓ Report injuries & near misses immediately

USE SAFETY DEVICES



Retractable Needles-
Needles retract automatically after use



Safety Syringes-
Protective covers reduce exposure



Needless Systems-
Delivers care without exposed needles. Allows access to vials without needles



Safety Lancets for Blood Sugar Testing-
Needle is never exposed before use & needle is captured in cap after use

IF AN NEEDLESTICK INJURY OCCURS:



1 Wash the area immediately with soap & water



2 Report the injury to a supervisor right away



3 Seek medical evaluation ASAP



4 Follow facility exposure response procedures