WORKING WITH SHARPS

Careful handling of sharps prevent injury and reduce the risk of infection. An accident or injury involving a sharp, contaminated with human blood or other infectious material, may result in an individual being infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), or other pathogens.

SAFE DISPOSAL OF SHARPS
- Used sharps must be discarded immediately into sharps containers.
- Sharps containers must be kept upright.
- Never reach into a sharps disposal container or broken glass box.
- Sharps containers must be easily located in the immediate area where sharps are used.
- Never overfill sharps containers past the pre-marked “fill-line”.
- Close and lock lid when moving sharps containers from the area of use.
- Puncture-resistant sharps containers are provided by Safety and Risk.
- When full, sharps containers may be autoclaved and picked up Safety and Risk.

PROPER HANDLING OF NEEDLES AND RAZOR BLADES
- Never bend, break, or shear needles.
- Never remove needles from syringe barrels.
- Never recap needles after using.

*Recapping is permissible if it can be demonstrated to the Biosafety officer and Safety and Risk that no alternative is feasible or that such an action is required by a specific procedure.

RESPONDING TO NEEDLE STICKS
1. Expose the wound.
2. Express blood from the wound.
3. Flush wound for 5 minutes.
4. Cover wound.
5. Report incident to your supervisor.

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