

## Self-Test Quiz

1. Any article capable of penetrating skin is a sharp.

**TRUE / FALSE**

2. Before handling filled sharps containers, check carefully for protruding sharps.

**TRUE / FALSE**

3. Sharps should not be disposed of in garbage bags or recyclable containers.

**TRUE / FALSE**

4. Use extra force to push down a lid on an over-filled sharps container.

**TRUE / FALSE**

5. Pay extra attention when handling linen or garbage in client's homes for hidden needles/sharps.

**TRUE / FALSE**

6. I should always report any injury due to a needle/sharp.

**TRUE / FALSE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this quiz to Occupational Health when completed.***

## *Lots of things are sharps*

There are lots of things in health care that are able to puncture the skin, and which have been in contact with the body fluids of other persons and therefore are potentially infected with blood-borne viruses. Examples are:

- Used needles/syringes
- Used lancets/scalpels/suture needles
- Broken glass contaminated with blood.

**Education regarding needle safety and sharps containers should be available for ALL workers who are at risk for sharps/needle-stick injury.**

- Materials other than sharps should not be placed into a sharps container. This may prevent needles/syringes from falling to the bottom of the sharps container.
- Syringes should be dropped horizontally into containers.
- Pay attention to cautionary statements or Biohazard labels on sharps containers.
- Do not transport a sharps container for disposal unless the lid has been locked down.
- Avoid touching a needle/sharp with your hands even if you are wearing gloves.
- If there is a risk of finding discarded sharps/needles, a dustpan or a similar item should be available to scoop up the sharp items safely.

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# BE A SHARPS SMART HOUSEKEEPER

Occupational Health and Safety/  
Infection Control Services



Providence  
Care

## Dangerous Situations should NEVER happen



**Every day is a sharps handling day for healthcare workers**



**Refer to Infection Control Manual Policy 2-20 for more information on sharps injuries and sharps containers.**

## SHARPS CONTAINERS

- Should always be puncture-resistant, leak resistant and tamper resistant
- Should be visually inspected for protruding sharps before handling
- Should be within reach before you begin your procedure
- Be closed off when fill level indicated on container is reached.

Safety Engineered Devices on Needles/ Sharps should always be activated following use and immediately disposed of in a sharps container.

All users should frequently and routinely monitor fill levels, and change sharp containers before they are overfilled.

**Never** shake or force items into a sharps container!

**Never** put your hands into a sharps container!

**Only** sharps should go into a sharps container.

*If you require further information please contact:  
Occupational Health and Safety/  
Infection Control Services*

Mental Health Services:

613-548-5567 Ext. 5611

Providence Manor:

613-548-7222 Ext. 3166

St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital:

613-548-7222 Ext. 2260

## BE SHARPS SMART!

### DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!



### ...OR CAUSE IT TO HAPPEN TO YOUR CO-WORKERS!

Be Sharp Safe

