

CMHC INFECTION CONTROL POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 08/11/16	NUMBER: B-14.24
	Replaces: 08/13/15	
	Formulated: 12/96	Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>
DISPOSAL OF SHARPS, NEEDLES, AND SYRINGES		

POLICY: All used sharps, needles, and syringes will be handled and placed in sharps containers according to the following procedures.

PROCEDURES:

- I. To prevent needlestick injuries, needles must **not** be recapped, purposely bent or broken, or otherwise manipulated by hand after use. Shearing or breaking of contaminated needles is prohibited.
- II. Immediately after use, **contaminated** sharps, needles, and syringes will be placed in containers which are closable, puncture-resistant, leak-proof, and color-coded red and/or labeled with a biohazard label.
- III. Immediately after use, or as soon as feasible, contaminated **reusable** sharps must be placed in containers which are puncture-resistant, leak-proof, and labeled with a biohazard label until properly reprocessed.

Reusable sharps that are contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials will not be stored or processed in a manner that requires employees to reach by hand into the container where the sharps have been placed. Containers may be equipped with wire basket liners for easy removal during reprocessing, or employees may use tongs or forceps to withdraw contents. Reusable sharps containers may not be opened, emptied, or cleaned manually.

- IV. **Containers** for contaminated sharps will be located as close as feasible to the immediate area where sharps are to be used or can reasonably anticipated to be found.
- V. Employees must **never** reach into containers of contaminated sharps.
- VI. Containers must remain upright and must not be filled more than 80% full or to the designated fill line.
- VII. When **moving** sharps containers from the area of use, the containers will be closed prior to removal or replacement to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents during handling, storage, transport, or shipping and before placement in contaminated waste containers for disposal.
- VIII. Each **supervisor** is responsible for ensuring that employees follow procedures as outlined in this policy.

References:

OSHA Standard, *Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens*, 29 CFR 1910.1030.