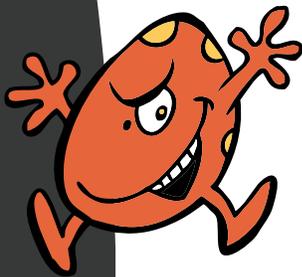




## INFECTION PREVENTION

# Avoiding needlesticks

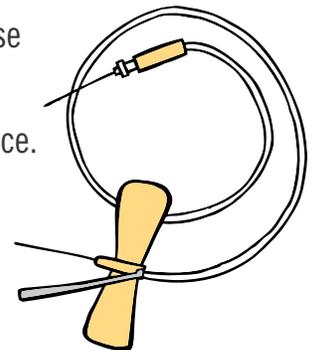
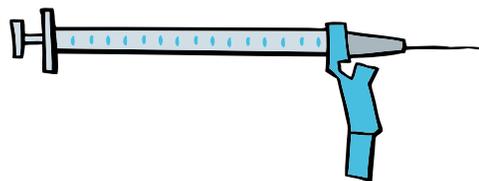


### SAFETY DEVICES

This type of equipment has a feature that blocks access to the needle to ensure greater safety. Their performance is related to the simplicity of activation of the protective device:

- **automatic action** when retracting the needle from the patient's skin (passive mechanism). This is the safest type of device.
- **active activation mechanism (semi-automatic or manual)** released by the user before or after retracting the needle from the skin.

Many institutions are now using safety devices because they recognize that this is the most effective way to prevent accidental needle stick injuries in the workplace.



### CAUTION!

- **Never re-cap a needle.**
- **Never put a needle down on a table or bed (risk of forgetting it).**
- **Never move around while holding an exposed needle.**

Contaminated needles can often be found where you least expect them: under furniture, in a patient's bed, in a garbage bag, in soiled laundry, etc.

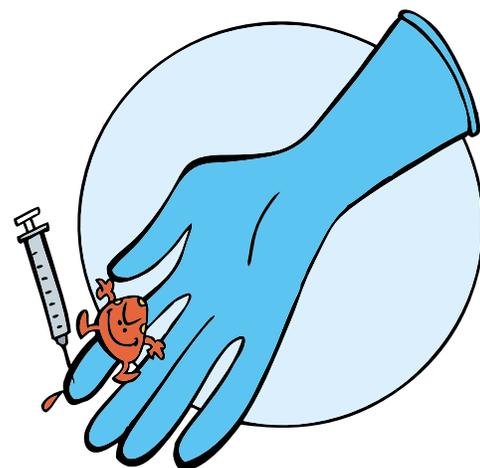
### PROPER USE

- If you have to press a button to retract the needle into the syringe or push down a protective sheath over the needle, activate the mechanism as soon as possible.
- The protective device should never be modified or changed.
- If using an injector pen to administer insulin, only use pens equipped with a protective device. Conventional injector pens have no safety features. They are designed for auto-injection, and should only be used by a patient.

## SAFETY PRACTICES FOR SHARPS

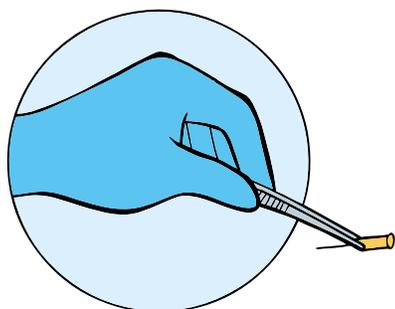
### Before initiating a procedure

- If you have a choice, always use a safety device.
- Make sure you have all the necessary equipment at hand, including a sharps disposal container with adequate room (not full).
- If the task involves handling a needle contaminated with blood, (drawing blood, inserting intravenous catheters, etc.) or the possibility of coming into contact with blood, wear gloves. Gloves cannot prevent an accidental needle stick, but if one does occur, gloves will wipe some of the blood from the needle, which reduces the risk of infection.



### After the procedure

Immediately dispose of the needle in the appropriate container, without separating it from the syringe.



**Use tweezers,  
not your fingers,  
to pick up a needle  
from the ground.**

## DISPOSAL CONTAINERS

In order for a container to be safe, it must be accessible within an arm's length, so that the needle can be disposed of without having to move, because, at that moment, the patient must also be seen to.

- A container installed on a wall is never in the ideal place. It is preferable to bring one with you. A mobile container can be affixed to a rod, ensuring stability and eliminating the need to return a tray to the nurse's station.
- Dispose of needles, syringes, butterfly needles, etc., including safety products.
- Make sure the item falls into the container, especially items such as butterfly needles that can easily get caught.
- If the container is full, don't try to force or push the contents down using your hand; instead, see that it is emptied/replaced.



Source: BioCaddy™  
www.adaptaide.com

## ACCIDENTAL NEEDLE STICK

- Clean the wound with soap and water and rinse with water (it is not necessary to make it bleed)
- Fill out the accident report, providing as much detail as possible.
- Contact a resource person within two hours of the incident to receive the required follow-up and to ensure that an occupational illness will be acknowledged should it become necessary.



ASSTAS



Ensemble en prévention

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