

SUBJECT: SHARP OBJECT HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

EFFECTIVE
DATE: 03-08-11 (replaces 04-01-05)

APPROVED BY:

Reviewed (no changes): _____

Executive Director

POLICY

It is the policy of McIntosh Trail CSB that agency nursing staff exert every precaution possible to prevent accidental injuries from needles and other sharp objects contaminated with blood and/or body fluids.

PROCEDURE

Sharp items (needles, glass ampules and other sharp instruments) should be considered potentially infective and be handled with extraordinary care to prevent accidental injuries. Disposable syringes and needles should be placed into puncture-resistant containers located as close as practical to the area in which they are used. To prevent needlestick injuries, needles should not be recapped, purposefully bent, broken, removed from disposable syringes or otherwise manipulated by hand.

A. Recapping of Needles

Needles **will not** be recapped **after use on consumers**. All needles used will be of the newer, "safety variety" which offer either retractable needles or a one-handed needle cover. This protects the consumer and staff from an accidental needle stick.

Injections and/or venipunctures will not be performed on consumers who refuse the procedure, or who are openly hostile, violent, or agitated, unless adequate staff can assist in holding consumer's torso and limbs in an appropriate manner to allow for safe administration of medication.

B. Disposal Containers:

1. The individual using a sharp will be responsible for disposal of the object immediately after use. All sharps will be placed into approved, puncture-resistant and leakproof disposal containers. Disposal containers will be labeled with an approved biohazard label.
2. Approved needle disposal containers will be placed in each room where sharps are used. They should be routinely changed when 2/3 to 3/4 full to prevent overflow. Containers must be firmly sealed prior to pick up and transporting for infectious waste disposal.
3. Disposal containers will be visible, easily accessible, and located in such a manner as not to be a hazard to visitors and consumers (i.e., out of reach of small children).
4. Disposal containers will be placed well back from the edges of tables/counter tops to guard against containers falling and spilling on the floor.