

Evaluation of Circumstances Surrounding Exposure Incidents

For or additional assistance, obtain a copy of *A Best Practices Approach for Reducing Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure*.

Our policy is to evaluate the circumstances (including the route(s) of exposure) under which all occupational exposure incidents occur. This evaluation is conducted as soon as possible after a report of an exposure incident is submitted. For each reported exposure incident, we gather and evaluate, if possible, the following information:

Date and location (department, unit, floor, dental operatory, etc.) of exposure incident:

Employee(s) job classifications:

Tasks and procedure(s) performed:

Routes of exposure (e.g., eye, intact skin, non-intact skin, mouth, other mucous membranes, parenteral contact, etc.):

Description of sharp(s) or other device(s) involved (including type and brand):

Personal protective equipment worn:


Other pertinent information:

Date of evaluation: _____

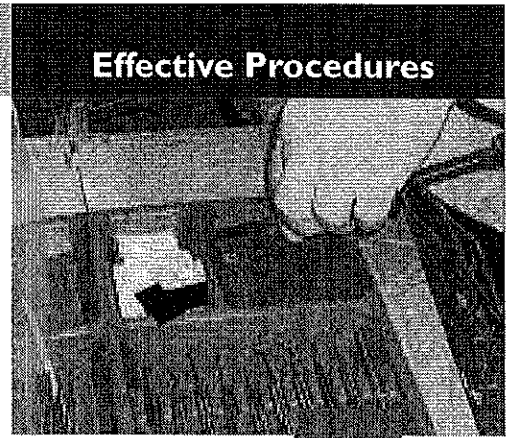
Evaluator(s) name(s): _____

Telephone/pager number _____

Telephone/pager number: _____

 Make copies as needed

Work Practice Controls Exception to Prohibited Practices



○ ur organization prohibits the bending, recapping, or removal of contaminated sharps from devices *except when*:

- It can be demonstrated that there is no feasible alternative to this action or that a specific medical or dental procedure requires such action, and
- That action is performed by using a mechanical device or a one-handed technique.*

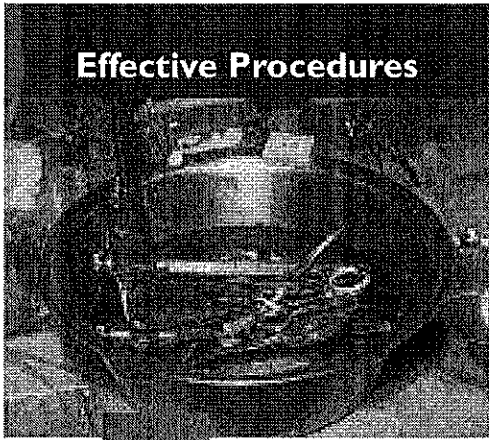
For each device and the associated task and procedure, describe the reason(s) for the bending, recapping, or removal of contaminated sharps:

The name of the supervisor making the decision to bend, recap, or remove contaminated sharps:

Date: _____

**One-handed technique* refers to a procedure in which the needle of a reusable syringe is capped in a sterile manner during use. The technique employed requires the use of only the hand holding the syringe so that the free hand is not exposed to the uncapped needle.

 Make copies as needed



Gathering Sharps Injury Log Information

A *sharp* is any object used or encountered that can be reasonably anticipated to penetrate the skin or any other part of the body, resulting in an exposure incident. Sharps include, but are not limited to, needle devices, scalpels, lancets, broken glass and capillary tubes, exposed ends of dental wires and knives, drills, and burs. An *exposure incident* means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious material that results from the performance of an employee's duties.

A *sharps injury* means any injury caused by a sharp, including but not limited to cuts, abrasions, or needlesticks. A Sharps Injury Log has been established and maintained as a record (in either written or electronic form) of *each* exposure incident involving a sharp. Our policy is to maximize the utility of the Sharps Injury Log by filling out the information as completely as possible in easy-to-understand language. The log documents our organization's sharps injury history in sufficient detail to support the development of effective exposure-control strategies.

Sharps Injury Log

The following information, if known or reasonably available, is documented within 14 working days of the date on which each exposure incident was reported.

1. Date and time of the exposure incident: _____
2. Date of exposure incident report: _____ Report written by: _____
3. Type and brand of sharp involved: _____
4. Description of exposure incident:
 - Job classification of exposed employee: _____
 - Department or work area where the incident occurred: _____
 - Procedure being performed by the exposed employee at the time of the incident: _____
 - How the incident occurred: _____
 - Body part(s) involved: _____
 - Did the device involved have engineered sharps injury protection? Yes (✓) _____ No (✓) _____
 - Was engineered sharps injury protection on the sharp involved? Yes (✓) _____ No (✓) _____

If Yes	If No
A. Was the protective mechanism activated at the time of the exposure incident? Yes _____ No _____ B. Did the injury occur before, during, or after the mechanism was activated? _____ Comments: _____ _____	A. Does the injured employee believe that a protective mechanism could have prevented the injury? Yes _____ No _____

- Does the exposed employee believe that any controls (e.g., engineering, administrative, or work practice) could have prevented the injury? Yes (✓) _____ No (✓) _____
- Employee's opinion: _____
- _____

5. Comments on the exposure incident (e.g., additional relevant factors involved):

6. Employee interview summary:

7. Picture(s) of the sharp(s) involved (please attach if available):



Making Periodic Determinations of the Frequency of the Use of Sharps Involved in Exposure Incidents


Periodic determinations are made on the frequency of use and the types, models, or brands of sharps involved in the exposure incidents documented on our Sharps Injury Log. We make these determinations (which include a review of our Sharps Injury Log) _____ (e.g., monthly, quarterly, semiannually, annually).

The Use of Sharps Involved in Exposure Incidents

<i>Area/Location or Unit</i>	<i>Type/Model/Brand of Sharp</i>	<i>Task or Procedure Performed</i>	<i>Date and Description of Exposure Incident</i>	<i>Frequency of Use of Sharps*</i>	<i>Supervisor Making the Determination</i>

* Reasonable and effective methods are employed to approximate the frequency of use of sharps involved in exposure incidents (e.g., looking at purchase records or in-house tracking records, statistical sampling, combinations of these or other methods). The methods employed by our organization include the following:

Comments: _____

 Make copies as needed