Review cycle

Annual assessment of safer sharps devices and work practices

This annual review of sharp medical devices is in the Oregon OSHA bloodborne pathogens standard. See *Methods of Compliance*.

bit.ly/4lGZHIH

1910.1030 *bloodborne pathogens: Every employer that uses medical sharps must, at least annually, identify, evaluate, and select engineering and work practice controls.*

- Involve employees who use the devices.
- Evaluate in each facility.
- Document in exposure control plan.

1 **Review sharps injury log** for trends with specific devices or circumstances.

A confidential sharps injury log is required if you are required to keep an exposure control plan. View sample at bit.ly/3edNeup.

29CFR1910.1030(h)(5) | Sharps injury log

(i) The employer shall establish and maintain a sharps injury log for the recording of percutaneous injuries from contaminated sharps. The information in the sharps injury log shall be recorded and maintained in such manner as to protect the confidentiality of the injured employee. The sharps injury log shall contain, at a minimum:

(A) The type and brand of device involved in the incident,

(B) The department or work area where the exposure incident occurred, and

(C) An explanation of how the incident occurred.

2 **Inform staff of evaluation and selection process** and solicit input from staff who use sharps.

This is a requirement, and it also makes good sense. We need to know about near misses and problems with existing devices and work practices. This information may not appear on the log, so getting input from staff is important.

3 **Create assessment team** to review devices and work practices.

4 **Review resources** such as EPINet/ International Worker Safety Center found at internationalsafetycenter.org/use-epinet/, and also ISIPS found at isips.org and contact vendors for information about improved devices. Evaluate existing work practices against industry best practices.

5 **Select improved work practices and new devices** for trial. Select devices based on criteria on the Trauma Foundation TDICT Project evaluation form (bit.ly/3ecLdi8)

6 **Train staff** on trial work practices and devices and on how to complete the evaluation forms.

7 **Gather feedback** using criteria on TDICT forms. Allow adequate trial period. Scheduling trial near seasonal influenza season can be helpful.

8 **Make final decision and document** device selection and work practice improvements in exposure control plan. See example at bit.ly/33N0HaA.

9 **Train all staff** on selected devices and work practice improvements prior to use.

10 **Ask for feedback at 30 days** and as needed, and then reevaluate.

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