



Halton  
Healthcare

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## Get Sharp Smart



# Ministry of Labour Regulation

## **Provision of Safety Engineered Needles**

- (1) The employer shall provide the worker with a safety-engineered needle that is appropriate for the work when required.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the employer is not able to obtain a safety engineered needle that is appropriate for the work.

## **Use of Safety Engineered Needles**

- (1) A worker that has been provided with a safety engineered needle shall use it for the intended work.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), the worker may use a hollow-bore needle that is not safety engineered based on reasonable grounds and circumstances that the safety engineered needle would pose a greater risk of harm to the worker, another worker, or to the person that the needle is to be utilized on.
- (3) The employer shall develop, establish and provide training for workers to assist in application of use

## Halton Healthcare Philosophy

Halton Healthcare is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all employees and physicians who use, handle, store and dispose of either safety and/or non-safety engineered needles.

This commitment will be achieved through compliance to the Ontario Needle Safety Regulation

(O.Reg 474/07, as amended by O.Reg 439/09)



## Halton Healthcare Philosophy Continued

Halton Healthcare aims to ensure:

- Safety engineered needles are made available for use
- The safety mechanism on a safety engineered needle is **NOT** to be modified and/or removed
- The safety mechanism **MUST** be activated immediately following its use
- Used needles **MUST** be discarded into a sharps container immediately and by the person generating the sharp waste
- Sharps **MUST NOT** be passed directly from hand to hand
- Sharps disposal containers....
  - **MUST** be readily accessible and located in a safe position that will avoid spillage, at a height that allows the safe disposal
  - **MUST** not be filled above the fill line

## Definitions

**Safety Engineered Needle:** is a medical device licensed by Health Canada, which is defined as a hollow-bore needle that is designed to eliminate or minimize the risk of a skin puncture injury to the worker **OR** a needleless device that replaces a hollow-bore needle

**Safety Engineered Medical Sharp (SEMS):** medical sharps that have been designed to include safety features or mechanisms, to eliminate the sharp altogether or minimize the risk of injury to the user or others.



# **Safe Recapping Procedure of Non-Safety Engineered Needles**

## Safe Recapping Procedure: Non-Safety Engineered Needles

If a safety engineered device is not available, and/or does not meet the clinical requirements of the treatment/procedure that is performed, then the person generating the sharp waste:

- **MUST** recap and dispose of the needle using the **ONE-HANDED TECHNIQUE**.
- The One-Handed Technique can be done using two different processes and is dependent on the supplies that come with the needle.



# Safe Recapping Procedure: Non-Safety Engineered Needles Continued

## Scenario One:

1. Place the needle cover on a flat surface like a table or counter with something firm to "push" the needle cap against.
2. Then, holding the syringe in your dominant hand, scoop the needle cap onto the needle (**NOTE:** DO NOT hold onto the needle cap with non-dominant hand while scooping—keep non-dominant hand well away from needle cap).
3. Tip the syringe vertically to slide cover over needle.
4. Secure the needle cap by pushing the capped needle against a firm object to “seat” the cap onto the needle.
5. Dispose of the recapped needle the sharps container.



# Safe Recapping Procedure of Non-Safety Engineered Needles Continued

## Scenario Two:

1. Place the recap cone on a flat surface like the table or counter.
2. Then, holding the syringe in your dominant hand, insert the needle into the cone and secure the cone by pushing the needle down on the firm flat surface until you hear a 'click' indicating the cone is firmly attached to the needle (**NOTE: DO NOT** hold onto the recap cone with non-dominant – keep non-dominant hand well away from recap cone).
3. Dispose of the recapped needle in the sharps container.



**Halton Healthcare:  
Accidental Exposure to Blood-Borne Pathogens**

# Accidental Exposure to Blood-Borne Pathogens

When exposed, worker should:

1. Remove any contaminated clothing or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2. Wash the exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water, allowing any wound to bleed freely and apply antiseptic later.
3. Rinse exposed mucous membranes for 10-15 minutes with large amounts of water (removing contact lenses as necessary)
4. Immediately notify your Supervisor and the Clinical Resource Nurse (CRN) on the source-patient unit (if known), advising that a needle-stick / blood borne exposure incident has occurred.
5. Attend HS&W as soon as possible for risk assessment (0800 – 1600 Mon - Fri).
6. If after hours, the worker doesn't need to go to the Emergency Department unless the exposure risk is high and the worker wants Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). See Post Exposure Assessment Tool - Appendix A of policy
7. Complete an Incident Report (IR) on line. If unable to complete an IR via Connections the worker must notify the HS&W department on 4611 or by email [occhealthnurse@haltonhealthcare.com](mailto:occhealthnurse@haltonhealthcare.com)

## References

- Halton Healthcare, Occupational Health & Safety (2019). Accidental Exposure to Blood-Borne Pathogens (HBV, HCV, HIV) Retrieved from EPPIC.
- Halton Healthcare, Occupational Health & Safety (2015). Safety Engineered Medical Sharps Policy. Retrieved from EPPIC.
- Ministry of Labour, (2010). Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ontario Regulation 474/07 Needle Safety. Retrieved from <http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=1762>