

# Sharps



## PURPOSE:

To correctly handle Sharps and Sharps containers to prevent injuries by disposing of them safely

## MATERIALS:

- Disposable gloves
- Heavy duty or utility gloves
- Tongs
- Sharps container



## CLEANING STEPS

1



### Do a Risk Assessment

- Determine risk of exposure to germs and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for the task.
- Wear the correct PPE to safely do the job.

2



- Know where the Sharps containers are located in the health facility.
- Sharps containers are usually in point-of-care places and should be placed out of the reach of children.

3



- If you see a Sharp, DO NOT pick it up with your bare hands:
  - Put on a pair of disposable gloves
  - If possible, take a Sharps container to the Sharp
  - NEVER re-cap a used needle even if a cap is available
  - Use tongs to pick up the Sharp
  - Carefully place the Sharp in the container
  - REPORT this incident to the nurse or your supervisor.

4



- Remove gloves and put in the garbage.
- Do hand hygiene.



5



- Check and replace Sharps containers with new ones when they are  $\frac{3}{4}$  full (up to the fill line).
- Wear heavy duty or utility gloves when collecting Sharps containers from around the health facility.
- Make sure the top of the container is closed well.
- Take the filled Sharps containers to a secure holding area where the containers are to be stored for future disposal.

6



• Remember these important things:

- Do not recap, remove, or try to bend needles by hand
- If there are sharps sticking out of the Sharps container—report this situation to the Nurse or Supervisor
- DO NOT try to push the Sharps back into the container or shake container
- Never reach into a garbage or Sharps container
- NEVER damp wipe the slot where sharps go into a Sharps container.



