

**APPLICATION**

NYU Hospitals Center

**PURPOSE**

- To alert personnel who use hypodermic syringes and needles to safeguard storage of such items and to ensure proper disposal after use so as to protect patients, visitors and employees from injury.
- To comply with NYS DEC and OSHA requirements.

**POLICY AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1.0 Disposal**

- 1.1 Used needles and syringes are considered contaminated and are disposed of immediately after use by placing the entire unit into a prominently labeled impervious plastic container. Needles are not bent, broken or cut. Recapping is prohibited unless a patient care situation occurs where this is the best alternative to ensure patient safety. In these situations one-handed recapping is employed.
- 1.2 All needles and syringes for disposal (used and unused) shall be disposed in a properly labeled sharps containers.
- 1.3 Building Services is responsible for removing and replacing full containers.
- 1.4 Hypodermics used for administration of radioactive material shall be disposed of in specifically designated containers and stored for decay if the half-life of the isotope is less than 60 days, then incinerated. If the half-life is greater than 60 days, it shall be autoclaved, then disposed as radioactive waste.

**2.0 Personnel Injury From Hypodermic Needles**

- 2.1 Any accident involving scratching, puncture and/or infection from a contaminated needle should be attended to at the time of occurrence at Employee Health Services or the Emergency Department.
- 2.2 Any accidents involving hypodermic needles should be reported to the employee's supervisor, and an Employee Occupational Injury/Illness Report should be filed.

**3.0 Sharps Disposal For The Community**

- 3.1 The NYU Langone Hospitals Center Outpatient Pharmacy will provide community service consistent with the goals of NYU Langone Medical Center and the Pharmacy Profession.
- 3.2 Members of the community may dispose of hypodermic needles and other sharps by bringing them to the Outpatient Pharmacy in any plastic container impervious to puncture. Sharps will be accepted at any time during business hours (8:30am – 7:00pm, Monday- Friday and 9:00am – 5:00pm on Saturday). Sharps will not be accepted in any container that will permit puncture. In this situation, Pharmacy personnel will provide the visitor with a sharps disposal container and the visitor will transfer the sharps into this container.
- 3.3 Upon receipt of the container, the Outpatient Pharmacy employee will place it in a location designated for pickup by a Collins Building Services (CBS) Maintenance employee.
- 3.4 As an additional service, the Outpatient Pharmacy will provide special sharps container for its customer at a discounted price.

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