Risk of Infection
(from a contaminated sharps injury)

HIV → 0.3 % (1 in 300)

Hepatitis C → 1.8 % (5.4 in 300)

Hepatitis B → 23-62% (69-186 in 300)

(HBV vaccine is 90% effective)

Preventing sharps injuries is the best way to protect yourself from infection

Infection Factors

The risk of infection after an occupational exposure depends on (1) the pathogen involved, (2) the worker's immune system, (3) the severity of the injury, and (4) post exposure follow-up.

Did You Know?

- *Insert an interesting and relevant statement regarding the rate of sharps injuries in your facility.* For example: As of [insert date], 14% of the reported sharps injuries at [facility name] occurred in the [insert department name] Department.
- Studies have shown, as many as 12% of sharps injuries are related to the disposal process.

Help Prevent Disposal Injuries

- **Activate** sharps safety features after use
- **Dispose** of all sharps promptly
- **Watch** disposal container fill levels
- **Assess** size of container for large sharps
- **Replace** full disposal containers

How can I protect myself?

- **Avoid** sharps where safer alternatives are available
- **Use** and **activate** sharps safety devices
- **Wear** personal protective equipment: gloves, gowns, face/eye protection
- **Properly** dispose of used sharps
- **Avoid** recapping
- **Complete** hepatitis B vaccine series
- **Report** all sharps injuries to a supervisor and HealthWorks

If exposed…

- **Wash** injuries with soap and water
- **Flush** splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water
- **Irrigate** eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigants
- **Seek** medical evaluation *immediately*
- **Report** the incident to your supervisor

Additional Information

1–800–CDC-INFO (1–800–232–4636)

TTY: 1–888–232–6348

Web site: www.cdc.gov/NIOSH

PEPLine (National Clinicians' Hotline)

1–888–HIV–4911 (448–4911)