

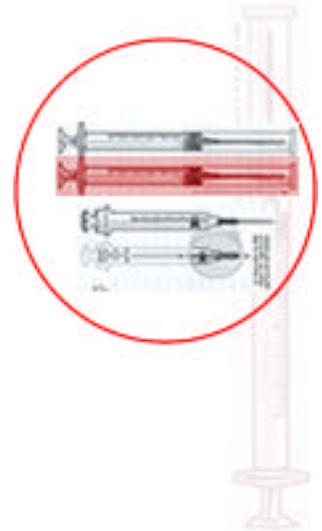
NIOSH recommends that health care facilities use safer medical devices to protect workers from needlestick and other sharps injuries. Since the passage of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act in 2000 and the subsequent revision of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, all health care facilities are required to use safer medical devices.



## SAFER MEDICAL DEVICE IMPLEMENTATION IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

### SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

NIOSH has asked a small number of health care facilities to share their experiences on how they implemented safer medical devices in their settings. These facilities have agreed to describe how each step was accomplished, and also to discuss the barriers they encountered and how they were resolved, and most importantly, lessons learned.



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## **Phase 3: Identify and Screen Safer Medical Devices**

### **Facility Profile**

Privately owned long term care organization that includes nine facilities; with census total of 800 beds. Each facility is unique in that they offer skilled, rehabilitation and intermediate nursing care services as well as services for the mentally retarded.

In Phase 2: "Identifying Priorities" the safe medical device team determined what devices would be screened for evaluation:

1. Syringes (all types)
2. Lancets (blood glucose monitoring)
3. Sharps disposal containers (all sizes)
4. IV needleless system

These devices were selected to achieve the goal of identifying safer medical devices that will have the greatest impact on preventing occupational exposure.

After the devices were selected, the safe medical device team identified specific brands and product names of safer medical devices to consider for evaluation and possible implementation.

### **Two step process**

1. Identifying the manufacturers and their products
  - Each facility project team leader communicated facility staff's recommendations for products and manufacturer
  - The Corporate Purchasing Director provided Internet Web Search product information to the Project Team Leader.
  - Current vendors and distributors were asked to submit a safer medical device product sample to the purchasing director with description of product, procedure and cost.
  - Contracted Pharmacy was asked to submit safe IV needleless system that would be utilized for IV therapy along with plan, policy and procedure.
  - Contracted Laboratory Services, Therapy Services, and Hospice Services were each asked to submit their plan to ensure compliance with the organizations goal.
  - The Assisted Living facilities of the organization were asked to identify all residents that provide their own syringes or sharps for private use, but a nurse or staff member is responsible for either use or disposal of the device. Policy determination for assisted living facilities were implemented to ensure that all products purchased by the resident, and either used or disposed of by a nurse or staff member, meet the safe medical device criteria.
2. Physically examining the safer medical devices to ensure their appropriateness for the specific clinical setting.

- Project leaders reviewed samples of devices for appropriateness
- The Corporate Purchasing Director reviewed all samples for cost analysis and projected budget.
- The Corporate Purchasing Director ensured and reported that each screened device would have product compatibility with existing products.
- After review of samples, project team leaders identified samples for initial screening among direct care staff.

### **Initial Criteria for Device Screening Selection**

- Vendor must supply enough samples for direct care staff to screen and evaluate device.
- Vendor must supply procedure for screened use of the safe medical device sample for facility education.
- Cost within planned budget
- Functional reliability of safety feature
- Suitability for a range of uses across patient populations and procedures
- Intuitiveness/ease of use
- Active versus passive
- Single- or two-handed use
- Positioning of hands behind sharp
- Extent of change in technique required
- Indication of activation
- Can the safety feature be manually deactivated?
- Packaging criteria: Sterile packaging, expiration date, name and lot number
- Permanent coverage of the sharp
- Does the activation of the safety feature interfere with any current policies or procedures?
- Patient safety
- Right- or left-handed use

An evaluation form was completed for each device. An example of this form is provided as Attachment A.

## **Recommendations and Lessons Learned**

### Vendors

Request that vendors provide procedures for the sampled safe medical device with review of sample product.

Limit vendor presentations to the safe medical device and restrict sale pitches for other products.

Request guarantee statement of adequate product sample amounts for screening purposes.

### Contracted Services

Long-term care facilities frequently contract services for Pharmacy, Laboratory, Therapy, Hospice and Oxygen etc. Contracted services should be notified of the facilities' intent and goal to "Identify safer medical devices that will have the greatest impact on preventing occupational exposure".

Communicate "a request for contracted services plan" to ensure compliance with the facilities' intent and goal.

### Assisted Living Facilities

Assisted Living residents often purchase their own syringes and sharps. If the organization staff is responsible for either use of the sharps device or disposal of the sharps device, policies should be implemented to ensure that products are purchased that meet the organizations intent and goal. Residents and or families may resist due to the potential for increased cost. Regulations related to OSHA can be cited as a resource for resident and family buy-in.

\*Note- Residents that self-administer and do not require staff intervention may utilize any device they choose.

### Web Site Resource

Needlestick Safety Alliance Creates New Safety Device List Online  
<http://www.longtermcareprovider.com/read/nl20020408/503965>

To date all phases of the project for Selecting and Evaluating Safer Medical Devices are complete. The primary committee team continues to meet quarterly. The continued monitoring and evaluation of the plan is ongoing. The secondary subcommittee meets bi-annually. They continue to report outcomes to the primary committee team.

**Staffing Hours (approximate)**

<b>Type of Staff</b>	<b>Hours Spent on Phase 2 Identifying Priorities for Implementing Safer Medical Devices in the Long Term Care Setting</b>
Management	2 hours= Phase 3 meeting  4 hours= review of sampled devices for screening and vendor presentations  1 hour= identify projected costs of sampled devices   1 hour= x each facility direct care staff education of phase
Administrative	4 hours estimated= research of products  2 hours= Phase 3 meeting
Front Line	2 hours=Phase 3 meeting  1 hour= x each direct care staff facility education of phase
Total	32 hours

**Other, non-labor items**

Catered lunch for meeting
Office supplies- copies of meeting invitations, regulations, agendas, posters, and minutes.

**Attachment A  
Criteria for Device Screening Selection**

**Device:**

**Manufacture:**

**Vendor Representative:**

**Contact Number:**

**Screening Date:**

Criteria	Comment	Proceed Yes/No
Vendor must supply enough samples for direct care staff to screen and evaluate device.		
Vendor must supply procedure for screened use of the medical device sample for facility education.		
Cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$</li> <li>• Within planned budget?</li> <li>• Included in group purchasing plan?</li> </ul>		
Functional reliability of features.		
Suitable for a range of uses across patient populations and procedures.		
Ease of use.		
Active versus Passive.		
Single- or two-handed use.		
Positioning of hands behind sharp.		
Extent of change in technique required.		
Indication of activation		
Undefeatable features: Can the safety feature be manually deactivated?		
Packaging Clean versus sterile Identifies expiration date Identifies safe medical device Identifies lot number		
Permanent coverage of the sharp		
Interference with procedure Does the activation of the safety feature interfere with the current policy and procedure?		
Patent Safety Can the device be utilized in home going instruction for self use?		
Right hand use only Left hand use only Both Left and Right hand use		

Final Determination:

Date: