

Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan – Appendix B: Sharps Container Fact Sheet



Using Sharps Containers:

A sharp is any object contaminated with blood, other potentially infectious materials or disease-causing organisms that is capable of cutting or penetrating skin or packaging materials.



Items Destined for Sharps Containers

Medical and dental devices:

- Needles
- Syringes (used or unused)
- Epi pens
- Lancets
- Dental wire

Other sharps items contaminated with blood:

- Razor blades
- Box cutter blades
- Broken glass

Do Not Place in Sharps Containers

- Bandages
- Disposable gloves
- Paper towels
- Cotton balls
- Feminine hygiene products
- Regular trash
- Medications
- Mercury containing medical or dental devices
- Hazardous waste (chemicals)

Cleaning up Sharps:

1. Wear disposable gloves.
2. Bring Sharps container to the location of the sharp item instead of carrying the sharp item to the Sharps container.
3. Use tongs or a broom and dust pan to put the sharp item in the Sharps container. **Do not pick up a sharp with your hands.**

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Handling and Disposal of Sharps Containers:

- Keep Sharps container closed when not in use.
- Store Sharps container in an upright position and do not overfill.
- Replace a Sharps container that becomes cracked or damaged; it may no longer be leak proof.
- **Sharps containers cannot be placed in the regular trash.** Dispose of Sharps containers through authorized regulated medical waste disposal locations (see below).

Red Bag and Sharps Container Authorized Disposal Locations:

To dispose of Red Bags or Sharps Containers, coordinate with the department contact listed below at each campus/center. All Red Bags must be tied shut and cannot contain sharps, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, or regular trash. Only closed, FDA approved Sharps Containers can be taken for disposal; no sharps items are to be put into glass jars, plastic drink bottles, etc. Sharps Containers should not contain chemicals, pharmaceuticals, or regular trash.

Location	Contacts
• CLIMB Health Professionals Rooms 102 and 105	• Bem Hanamoto, Coordinator, x6627 • Spencer Corbin Lawson, IST IV, x5422; • Shauna Pratt, IST IV, x5674
• Cascade Science and Medical Lab Technology Jackson Hall Room 222	• Leslie Pullen-Romanio, Coordinator, x4757, or • Josette Beach, Director, x4235
• VanPort Dental	• Doris Rink, Instructor, x4059
• Sylvania Nursing HT Room 126	• Eileen Fitzpatrick, IST III, x4231 or • Jack Brosy, IST III, x4474
• Sylvania Life Science ST Room 207 Lab Prep area	• Steve Ballew, IST III, x6315
• South East Sciences Student Commons 317E	• Virginia Chambers, Instructor, x2544
• Willow Creek Medical Assisting Room 304	• Melissa Duke, IST III, x7071
• Rock Creek Biology Building 7 Room 130	

If a College location has no Red Bag or Sharps Container disposal service, contact Evelyn Prater, Environmental Health & Safety, at x2872 for assistance.