

# 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.**

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

## 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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Role</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CLIMB Health Professionals Rooms 102 and 105</li><li>• Cascade Life Sciences and Medical Lab Technology Jackson Hall Room 222</li><li>• VanPort Dental</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Gateways Coordinator</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sylvania Nursing HT Room 126</li><li>• Sylvania Life Science ST Room 207 Lab Prep area</li><li>• South East Sciences Student Commons 317E</li><li>• Willow Creek Medical Assisting Room 304</li><li>• Rock Creek Biology Building 7 Room 130</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructional Support Tech IV; • Medical Lab Tech Specialist</li><li>• Dental Clinic Coordinator, or • Dental Program Director</li><li>• Nursing Instructor, or • Instructional Support Tech IV</li><li>• Instructional Support Tech III</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instructional Support Tech III</li><li>• Medical Assisting Instructor</li><li>• Instructional Support Tech III</li></ul>

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