

# Staying on Top of Our Game

POSTER

## BLOOD COLLECTION SAFETY TIPS

Many new sharps injury prevention products have come to market since the passage of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act two years ago. It is important to know what is going on in the market from a legislative and product perspective because this game is for your health and safety. The following tips will show you the information that you need to stay on top in the game of sharps safety.

**"Half this game  
is 90% mental"**  
Yogi Berra

**December  
Is International  
Sharps Injury  
Prevention  
Awareness  
Month**

**1  
STEP**

### **Become a Sharps Injury Prevention Expert**

Find out the latest information regarding needlestick and sharps safety. This is a hot topic with many subjects to be addressed. Keep in contact with OSHA through their website. Know the requirements of the law. Read various journals for articles on safety, such as *Managing Infection Control*.

Stay on top of new safety products that are introduced to the marketplace. A person could be easily overwhelmed with all the new products that are now available. Learn about new safety products by visiting exhibitors at National Shows, inviting sales representatives to introduce new products, have a safety fair at your hospital, read journal ads and review informative websites like ISIPS. Sign up for free newsletters that provide information about sharps injury prevention products.

**2  
STEP**

### **Product Selection/Evaluation**

The Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act states that frontline clinicians should be involved in safety product selections. Make sure that proper evaluations are completed before product decisions are made. This can reduce some of the transitional issues that occur when product changes are made. At least once a year product evaluations should be completed to make sure that your institution is aware of the latest safety products and to assure compliance with the requirements of the law.



### 3 STEP

#### Safety Winged Blood Collection Devices

Standard winged blood collection devices, often called butterfly needles, are one of the top causes of needlesticks. Winged sets are hollow bore needles with attached tubing used for blood collection. It has been reported in one study that standard winged sets accounted for 67 percent of the accidental needlesticks associated with blood collection. Safety winged blood collection systems are available that allow for one-handed safety activation as well as flexible wings for easy insertion. This protects the healthcare worker and others from being stuck with a blood-filled needle. Always use safety winged blood collection devices!



### 4 STEP

#### Safety Transfer/Collection Devices

Clinicians are concerned now more than ever with the safe transfer and collection of blood. A transfer/collection device allows you to safely complete the procedure without using a standard needle, thus reducing needlesticks. Many of these blood transfers are from syringes to evacuated blood collection tubes. Make sure that the safety devices you are using will fit standard blood tubes/blood culture bottles and wide mouth blood culture bottles.

### 5 STEP

#### Safety Blood Collection Needles/holders

Safety Blood Collection Needles/holders is a hot topic particularly with the recent directive banning the reuse of such devices. Any time you use a holder there is a chance for blood to contaminate the holder. Always dispose of the needle and holder directly into sharps container. Make sure that the product you are using cannot be reused.

### 6 STEP

#### Safety Lancets

Safety lancets are designed for micro capillary sticks. They typically have a high-speed penetration of the blade to minimize patient discomfort. They are designed to protect healthcare professionals and others from accidental sharps injuries. Choose safety lancet products that activate quickly and retract the needle out of the way to reduce the chance of needlesticks and to prevent reuse of the product.

### 7 STEP

#### Safety Heelstick

A collection of capillary blood is obtained by pricking the skin on the heel and collecting a drop or two of blood on a test strip. The area is cleansed with antiseptic and punctured with a sharp needle or a lancet. The blood may be collected in a pipette, on a slide, onto a test strip, or into a small container. When using standard needles or lancets this leaves sharps that can accidentally stick a healthcare worker or others. Newer technologies exist that eliminate sharps injuries. A variety of safety heelstick products are now available.

### 8 STEP

#### Ease of Use

To reduce the incidence of needlesticks and other sharps injuries, clinicians should identify products that require little or no change in their clinical technique. If a product is not easy to work with it is more likely that an error could lead to a needlestick or other sharps injury.

1. OSHA Website – [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)
2. <http://www.med.virginia.edu/medcntr/centers/epinet/hr5178rv.html>; OSHA Bloodborne Fact Sheet 1, An Overview of the Standard, [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_BloodborneFacts/bbfact01.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/bbfact01.pdf); OSHA Bloodborne Fact Sheet 2, Protect Yourself When Handling Sharps, [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_BloodborneFacts/bbfact02.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/bbfact02.pdf)
3. <http://www.isips.org>
4. <http://www.isips.org/register.php>
5. Angel Wing™ Safety Needle System—Kendall Healthcare Products; PUNCTUR-GUARD® Winged Set for Blood Collection—Bio-Plexus; Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ blood collection set—Becton Dickinson; VACUETTE® Safety Blood Collection Set—Greiner Bio-One; SurShield Winged Blood Collection Set—Terumo; VAKU8 PLUS and UNOLOK PLUS—Mycro Medical
6. Safety Transfer Collection Devices—Monoject Angel Wing Multi-Sample Sets—Tyco Healthcare/Kendall; BD™ Blood Transfer Device—Becton Dickinson
7. Safety blood collection, needles, holders: Punctur-Guard Single Use Needle Holder—Bio-Plexus; BD Eclipse Single-Use Blood Collection Holder—Becton Dickinson; VanishPoint® Blood Collection Tube Holder—Retractable Technologies Inc.; Needle-Pro Blood collection needle—Portex; Needle-Pro Blood Collection needle—Terumo
8. Monoject Monoletter™ safety lancet—Kendall Healthcare Products Co.; Surgilance One-Step Safety Lancet—Surgilance; Single-Let-Bayer Corp., BD Quikheel™ Lancet, BD Genie™ Lancet—Becton Dickinson; Safe-T-Lance Plus™—Futura Medical Corp distributed by Portex Medical; EZ-Lets® II Lancet—Palco Laboratories; Haemolance—Hypoguard; Haemolance Plus—Hypoguard; Tenderfoot® heel incision device, Tenderlett® automated skin incision device—International Technidyne Corp.; Glucolet 2™ retracting lancet—Miles Inc., Diagnostic Division; Unistik 2™—Owen-Mumford, Inc.; Accu-Check Safe-T-Pro-Roche Diagnostics, Medlance Safety Lancet—Labnet International; HemoCue Safety Lancet—Hemocue
9. BD Quikheel™ Lancet—Becton Dickinson, Nicky™, Little Nicky, Array Medical, Tenderfoot® heel incision device—International Technidyne Corp.

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Special thanks to Tyco Healthcare/Kendall for assisting with this poster