

SHARPS SAFETY

ALWAYS:

Always dispose of needles and other sharps in a rigid, puncture resistant container immediately after use.

NEVER:

Never recap needles for disposal.

If recapping is required for the procedure being done, you must use tongs, a recapping device or one-hand scoop method to recap needle. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle!

Why is recapping needles dangerous?

It is extremely dangerous to hold a needle in one hand and attempt to cover it with a small cap held in the other hand!

- The needle can miss the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The needle can pierce the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The poorly fitting cap can slip off a recapped needle and stab the hand holding it.

How can I protect myself from needlestick injuries?

- Avoid the use of needles if safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Select, evaluate and use devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlestick injury.
- Avoid recapping needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
- Put uncapped needles in rigid tray during procedure.
- Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps disposal container.
- Report all needlestick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.
- Substitute plasticware for glass when possible.
- Follow safety guidelines for all sharps hazards (razor blades, scalpels, slides).
- Participate in training.

