

MONTHLY

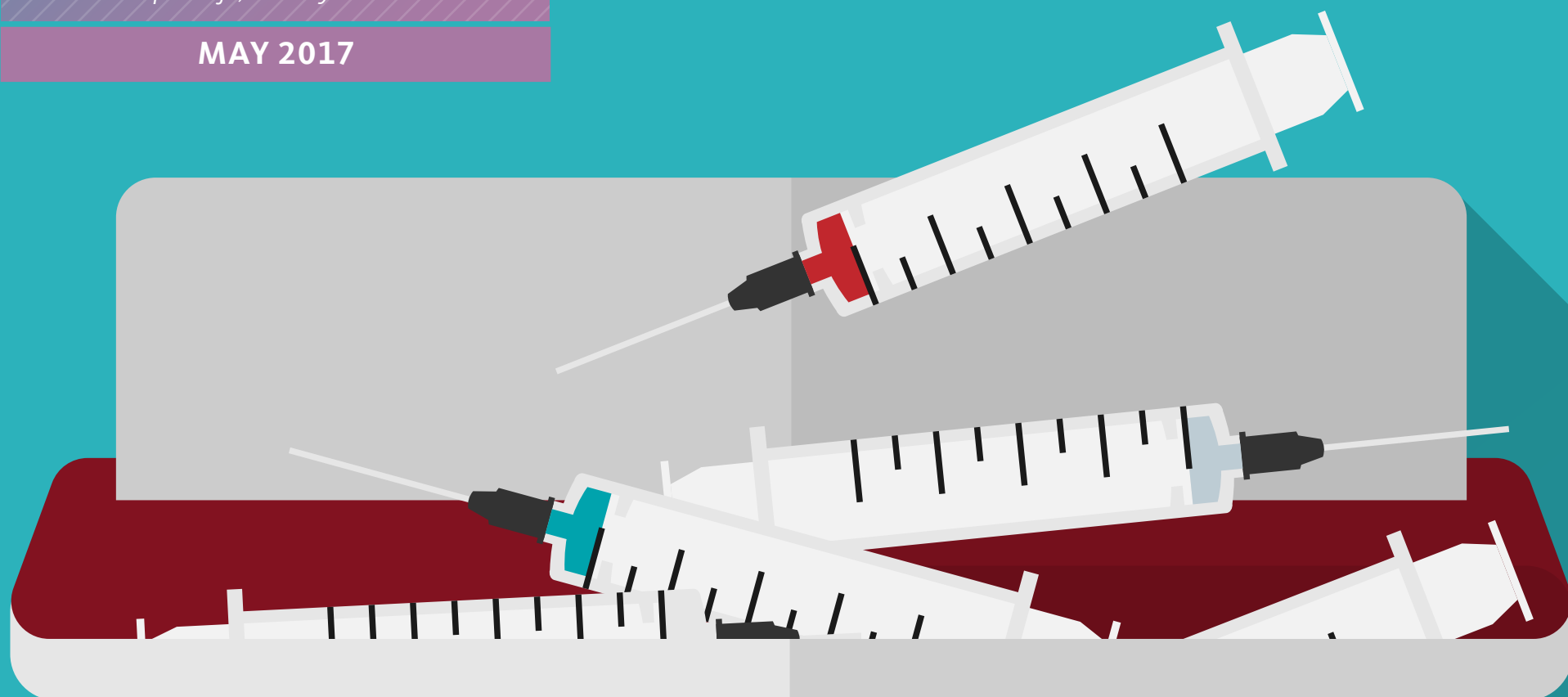
UC Medical Center SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Poster of the Month

Practical Tips to Help You Keep
Yourself, Your Co-workers and Your
UC Campus Safe, Healthy and Secure

MAY 2017

Needlestick Prevention



SHARPS CONTAINER

Be Prepared

- Organize your work area with appropriate sharps disposal containers within reach
- Work in well-lit areas
- Receive training on how to use sharps safety devices
- Before handling sharps, assess any potential hazards and seek assistance, if needed

Be Aware

- Keep the exposed sharp in view
- Be aware of people around you
- Stop if you feel rushed or distracted
- Focus on your task
- Avoid hand-passing sharps and use verbal alerts when moving sharps
- Avoid the use of needles where safe and effective alternatives are available
- Avoid recapping needles
- Watch for sharps in linen, beds, on the floor, or in waste containers
- Participate in mandatory blood borne pathogen training and follow recommended infection prevention practices



Dispose of Sharps with Care

- Plan safe handling and disposal *before* beginning any procedure using needles or other sharps
- Be responsible for the device *you* use
- Activate safety features after use
- Keep fingers away from the opening of sharps containers
 - Dispose of used needles promptly in appropriate sharps disposal containers
 - Do not overfill sharps containers

Reporting

- Report all needle stick and other sharps-related injuries *promptly* to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care
- Exposures should be reported to Employee or Occupational Health (or their designee after hours)
- Managers can report employee exposures as well
- Tell your supervisor about hazards from needles or other sharps that you observe in your work environment