Needlestick Prevention

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