Standard Operating Procedure

Management of Sharps and Biomedical Waste Disposal

Initial effective date: October 2017
Last updated: June 2026
Next review: June 2029

OBJECTIVES

To maintain the health and safety of Medical Device Reprocessing Area (MDRA) staff by the prevention and management of blood and body fluid exposures.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staff, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary) working within Medical Device Reprocessing Area.

ELEMENTS

1. Staff shall be trained in safe work practices for the prevention of exposure to blood and body fluids.

2. Management of Sharps

    2.1 Sharps such as needles and blades shall be removed and disposed of by the end user in an accessible, appropriate sharps container at point-of-use.

    2.2 Every effort shall be made to ensure that reusable medical devices that are sharp or have sharp components, including glass and fragile objects, are segregated or organized to protect staff from injury.

    2.3 Staff should never reach blindly into an instrument set, soiled bin, or transport container without first visually confirming the contents.

    2.4 Staff shall report any incidents in which single-use sharps are not removed and disposed of at point-of-use to management and complete a MySafetyNet report. Where possible, the source of the sharp must be determined and responsible individuals must be informed to prevent future incidents.

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3. Management of Biomedical Waste

3.1 Biomedical waste shall be handled using appropriate personal protective equipment in conjunction with the Workplace Health and Safety policy for handling biomedical waste. Refer to the Personal Protective Equipment SOP for more information.

3.2 Information on reporting blood and body fluids exposures shall be posted in MDRAs.

3.3 Staff shall report all blood and body fluid exposure to their leadership, complete a MySafetyNet report, and follow the policy for Occupational Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
  - *Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing*, Canadian Standards Association *(CAN/CSA-Z314:23)*

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
October 2017	Initial approval
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