

Standard Operating Procedure

Management of Sharps and Biomedical Waste Disposal

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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. 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. Staff shall report any incidences in which single-use sharps are not removed and disposed of at point-of-use to management and complete an incident report.
3. Reusable medical devices that are sharp or have sharp components shall be segregated to protect staff from injury.
4. If sharps are found in soiled wrappers, gowns, or drapes, this shall also be reported to the MDRA management team and an incident report shall be completed.
5. Staff shall be trained in safe work practices for the prevention of exposure to blood and body fluids.
6. Glass and fragile objects shall be handled with care.
7. Staff should never reach blindly into an instrument set, soiled bin or transport container.
8. Staff shall wear PPE appropriate to risk.
9. Biomedical waste shall be handled using appropriate PPE as identified by Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment (IPC RA) in conjunction with the Workplace Health and Safety policy for handling biomedical waste.
10. Staff shall report all blood and body fluid exposure to a supervisor and follow the AHS Policy for *Occupation Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids* (Doc. #1111)
11. Information on reporting blood and body fluids exposures shall be posted in MDR Departments. The Blood & Body Fluid Exposure poster is located on AHS Insite under WHS.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
 - *Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing in all Health Care Settings* (Canadian Standards Association) (CAN/CSA Z314-23)

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
October 2017	Initial approval
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