

3.13. Use of Needles

3.13.1. To prevent needlestick injuries:

- Avoid using needles whenever possible.
- Do not bend, break, or otherwise manipulate needles by hand.
- Do not recap needles by hand. Do not remove needles from syringes by hand.
- Immediately after use, discard needle and syringe (whether contaminated or not) into puncture resistant sharps containers.
- Never discard needles into regular trash.
- Never discard needles into bags of biological waste.
- Use care and caution when cleaning up after procedures that require the use of syringes and needles.
- Use extra care when two persons are working together. Locate sharps container between the workers when possible. Do not overfill sharps containers.
- Locate sharps containers in areas in which needles are commonly used.
- Make containers easily accessible.
- Occasionally needles must be filled, recapped, and set aside for use later. In these cases, recapping may be performed by the one-handed scoop technique, or by placing the needle in a sterile conical tube.

3.13.2. In the event of a needlestick injury

- Follow procedures identified in [section 3.2](#) of this document. Notify supervisor and go immediately to your [Designated Medical Service Provider](#) for your respective campus.