

TIP OF THE WEEK # 80

Sharps Injuries

Sharps are instruments or objects such as needles, small glass objects, scalpel blades, lancets, razor blades or any other sharp object that can puncture or cut the skin.

The following should be safeguarded while handling sharps:

- 1. Needles shall not be recapped, clipped, or bent before disposal**
- 2. Sharps shall be disposed of immediately at the point of use in a sharps container without any manipulation and shall not be discarded into regular trash**
- 3. Discarded sharps shall not be retrieved from a sharps container**
- 4. Sharps containers shall not be overfilled**
- 5. Sharps containers shall be within arm's reach. The top part of a sharps container shall always be viewed to avoid puncture injury from a sharp sticking out of the opening.**

In the event of an accidental sharps injury, the healthcare personnel shall:

- 1. Immediately wash the affected area with soap and water**
- 2. Gently encourage free bleeding of the wound but do not suck or squeeze the injured site**
- 3. Report the incident to the immediate supervisor and complete the Incident Report Form.**