

## **POLICY ON REDUCING THE RISK OF NEEDLE STICK INJURIES**

### **1.0 Objectives**

The objective of this document is to

- Identify the ways in which needle-stick injuries can occur in your facility.
- Describe what to do if a needle-stick injury does occur.
- Explain exposure management for hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV from needle-stick injuries.
- Apply the multimodal strategy to reduce needle-stick injuries in your facility.

### **2.0 Scope**

This process applies to GIIS Dubai.

### **3.0 Policies**

This policy is intended to ensure all sharps/needles are risk assessed and where reasonably practicable replaced by a safety device in order to reduce the risk of exposure to blood borne viruses and transmission of these infections following needle stick or other exposures.

#### **Avoiding recapping needles.**

Planning for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them. Promptly disposing of used needles in conveniently placed and appropriate sharps disposal yellow containers. Reporting all needle stick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.

#### **Which actions should the nurse initiate to reduce the risk of needle stick injury**

Nurses can reduce their risk by following safety measures and using needleless systems (when possible) and activating the safety device on sharps. Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when performing a procedure or task that has a high risk of exposure to body fluids is also critical and while giving vaccination.

#### **Prevention & Management of Needle Stick Injuries**

- Providing easily accessible sharps disposal containers with clearly marked full lines.
- Supplying healthcare workers with safe needle and sharps devices that provide protection via sheathing or needle retraction actions.
- We should document in case of needle stick injury the following
  1. Staff name
  2. Date and time of exposure
  3. Facility
  4. Place of injury
  5. Position
  6. The sharp items were –Contaminated/un contaminated
  7. Occurrence of injury –Before use of item, during the use of item, while preparing the items, while recapping a used needle or while throwing in a sharp container.

8. Needle used for

- The exposed staff/ students should thoroughly clean the injury with soap and running water.
- Health care workers must report immediately to the internal medicine clinic/laboratory for further management.
- If a health worker is found positive for any blood borne disease, she will report the incident to Dubai Health Authority for further investigation.
- If negative, no further action to be taken.

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