

SAFE SYRINGE DISPOSAL GUIDE FOR HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE

November 1999

INTRODUCTION

Home generators of medical waste may account for the use of up to 700,000 sharps daily in New Jersey. The most common disease that requires self-injection of insulin and lancets to monitor blood sugar levels at home is diabetes. There are more than 280,000 individuals who have diabetes in the State of New Jersey*.

The proper disposal of home generated medical waste is an important step that all home generators of medical waste can take to help ensure the health and safety of all New Jerseyans.

WHAT HEALTH EFFECTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE?

The improper disposal of home generated medical waste poses a potential health hazard to many, including family members, sanitation workers, people in the community, hotel housekeeping staffs and school personnel. Although rare, diseases as serious as Hepatitis B and AIDS can also result from accidental needle sticks. In addition, loose syringes thrown into your household trash can also be misused if they fall into the wrong hands. Moreover, these items can injure small children, pets and wildlife.

DOES THIS GUIDE APPLY TO YOU?

The Safe Syringe Disposal Guide (Guide) applies to New Jerseyans generating medical waste at home. These individuals are referred to throughout this Guide as home generators of medical waste. *This Guide also applies to individuals visiting the State of New Jersey.*

**If you
produce
any
medical
waste at
home, this
Guide may
apply to
you.**

*NJDHSS Center for Health Statistics (1996)

RECEIVED
APR 25 2005



WARREN COUNTY
PLANNING BOARD

WHAT IS HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE?

Home generated medical waste is created through the administration of injectable medications and other invasive or non-invasive procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, syringes, needles with attached tubing and other materials.

WHO ARE HOME GENERATORS OF MEDICAL WASTE?

Home generators of medical waste include any individual who produces waste as a result of medical care in the home (home self-care) through self-administration practices or by a family member or other person not receiving money for their services.

ARE THERE LAWS GOVERNING THE DISPOSAL OF HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE IN NEW JERSEY?

Yes. The improper disposal of syringes or reusable hypodermic needles is regulated by state law (N.J.S.A. 2A:170-25.17). This Statute prohibits any person from discarding disposable or reusable hypodermic needles or syringes, in public or private places which are accessible to other persons (including trespassers) without first destroying the needle or syringe. This means you are responsible for destroying your needles and syringes, even when you visit other people.

Violators of this Statute can be fined up to \$500.00 and/or imprisoned or both. *If visiting other states, check their laws to determine whether your medical waste is regulated and the proper disposal methods.*

WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL WASTE GENERATED BY MEDICAL CARE WORKERS IN YOUR HOME?

Medical waste produced by health care workers (physicians, nurses, home health aides, etc.) as a result of providing medical care in the home is *not* home generated medical waste. It is Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) as defined in the N.J.A.C. 7:26-3A, and must be disposed of by a licensed RMW generator in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) RMW regulations. **The responsibility for the proper and safe disposal of regulated medical waste rests with the health care provider providing services in the home.**

***Each
day,
up to
700,000
syringes,
needles and
lancets are
used by
New
Jerseyans***

HOW CAN YOU SAFELY DISPOSE OF YOUR SYRINGES?

Several options are available to safely dispose of used syringes generated in the home.

- **Safe Syringe Disposal Program** - The New Jersey Hospital Association together with local hospitals offer a program to safely and responsibly dispose of syringes, needles and lancets generated in the home. Participating hospitals offer rigid containers to dispose of these items for a small one time fee to individuals who are injection dependent. *(This program does not require needles to be clipped prior to placing them in the container.)* The container must be returned to the hospital when full for proper disposal and will be exchanged for a new empty container at that time. A list of participating hospitals is listed at the back of this brochure. Additional information about the Safe Syringe Disposal Program may be obtained by contacting:

**See Back of Brochure
for a List of
Participating Hospitals**

New Jersey Hospital Association
760 Alexander Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08543
(609) 275-4000

- **Physicians** - Ask your physician if she/he will take your used syringes once they are properly placed in a container.
- **Local Health Departments** - Ask the Health Officer of your local health department if there are any syringe disposal facilities in your area.
- **Household Waste** - Follow the steps below to safely dispose of your syringes in your municipal trash. Your syringes must be placed in rigid containers that will protect people from needle sticks and use containers that are unlikely to break open on its way to the landfill.

1. **Rigid Container** You may use empty laundry detergent bottles or 2-liter soda 'pop' bottles or other rigid containers with screw-on caps to dispose of needles and syringes.

Check with a pharmacy. Ask if it sells commercial containers specially designed to hold sharps for disposal in your household trash.

2. Label/Warning Place a large label with a warning on the empty container.
Example: SYRINGES - DO NOT RECYCLE
3. Needle Clipper Clip the needle. You can buy an inexpensive hand held needle clipper from the pharmacy. **Using anything other than a clipper to break a needle is not safe.** After clipping the needle, carefully place each of your used needles and syringes into a plastic bottle with a screw-on lid. To the extent practicable, the individual receiving the medical treatment should clip the needle and syringe and place them in the container. In cases where this cannot be done due to the limitations of that individual, and a family care giver or volunteer must perform this activity, it is recommended that the individual's physician be consulted first.
4. Seal Seal the bottle tightly with its original lid and wrap 'duct tape' over the lid after you fill the bottle with syringes.
5. Disposal You may now dispose of the tightly sealed full container of syringes in your household garbage - NOT in your recycling bin.

Remember, although you may feel healthy, your used syringes can transmit germs. In addition, loose syringes thrown in your trash can seriously hurt people. We all benefit from the safe disposal of syringes. Please do your part to help keep our environment clean and safe.

For additional information, you may visit our web site or contact the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services at the address below.

www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/cehsweb

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Consumer and Environmental Health Services
Regulated Medical Waste Program
P.O. Box 369
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0369
Telephone: (609) 588-3124

**SAFE SYRINGE DISPOSAL PROGRAM
(HOSPITAL PARTICIPANTS)**

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Lynn Gove
Director, Infection Control
Atlantic City Medical Center/City Div.
PHONE: (609) 345-4000 ext. 2874 ♦ FAX: (609) 441-8152

Lynn Gove Director, Infection Control
Atlantic City Medical Center/Mainland
PHONE: (609) 652-1000 ext. 2844 ♦ FAX: (609) 652-3589

Timothy Oliver
Director, Materials Management
Shore Memorial Hospital
PHONE: (609) 653-3602 ♦ FAX: (609) 653-3409

Joan Stahl
Marketing Specialist
William B. Kessler Memorial Hospital
PHONE: (609) 561-6700 ext. 5393 ♦ FAX: (609) 561-8370

BERGEN COUNTY

Colleen T. Merkel
OR Materials/SPD Manager
Englewood Hospital & Medical Center
PHONE: (201) 894-3189 ♦ FAX: (201) 894-7295

Ellen McAllister
Health Educator, Community Health Service
Holy Name Hospital
PHONE: (201) 837-1850 ♦ FAX: (201) 837-7551

Terry Dannels, RN
Director, Infection Control
The Valley Hospital
PHONE: (201) 447-8692 ♦ FAX: (201) 447-8448

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Joan Stewart
Certified Diabetes Educator
Alliance Memorial Hospital of Burlington County
PHONE: (609) 267-0700 ext. 1653 ♦ FAX: (609) 261-9679

Carol Mest
Coordinator, Patient & Community Education
Rancocas Hospital
PHONE: (609) 835-2900 ext. 4016 ♦ FAX: (609) 835-5470

CAMDEN COUNTY

Vickie Eisenhardt
Clinical Director, Family Health Center
West Jersey Health System
PHONE: (856) 246-3542 ♦ FAX: (856) 246-3528

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Joanne Erasquin
Employee Health Coordinator
Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital
PHONE: (609) 463-2491 ♦ FAX: (609) 463-2910

ESSEX COUNTY

Renita Larang
Nurse Educator
Irvington General Hospital
PHONE: (973) 399-6159 ♦ FAX: (973) 399-3860

Tris Berlinski
Specimen Collection Supervisor
The Mountainside Hospital
PHONE: (973) 429-6955 ♦ FAX: (973) 429-6992

Norma Gonzalez
Department Secretary
Saint James Hospital
PHONE: (973) 465-2796 ♦ FAX: (973) 465-2861

Ken Richter
Safety Management
St. Barnabas Medical Center
PHONE: (973) 533-8258 ♦ FAX: (973) 533-8401

HUDSON COUNTY

Nancy Berger
Diabetes Educator
Bayonne Hospital
PHONE: (201) 858-5219 ♦ FAX: (201) 858-6586

Josephine Scherring
Director, Environmental/Dietary Services
Christ Hospital Home Health & Hospice Services
PHONE: (201) 795-8366 ♦ FAX: (201) 795-8678

HUDSON COUNTY cont'd.

Rosemary Farrell
 Clinical Manager
Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center
 PHONE: (201) 392-3531 ♦ FAX: (201) 392-3538

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Carolyn Swithers, RN
 Director of Health Education
Hunterdon Medical Center
 PHONE: (908) 788-6136 ♦ FAX: (908) 788-2538

MERCER COUNTY

Jack Walsh
 Environmental Coordinator
Capital Health System at Mercer
 PHONE: (609) 394-4184 ♦ FAX: (609) 396-5080

Joan Gilliard

Secretary
Medical Center at Princeton
 PHONE: (609) 497-4266 ♦ FAX: (609) 497-4996

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Judith Leschek
 Infection Control Department
JFK Medical Center
 PHONE: (732) 321-7000 ext. 7539 ♦ FAX: (732) 906-4952

Ed Hurley

Nursing Unit Secretary, 5-B Diabetes Unit
St. Peter's Medical Center
 PHONE: (732) 745-8600 ext. 8470 ♦ FAX: (732) 249-7390

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Sandra Gunther
 Manager, Environmental Services
Bayside Community Hospital
 PHONE: (732) 739-5929 ♦ FAX: (732) 290-7042

Suzanne Khanna

Program Coordinator, Diabetes Care Program
CentraState Medical Center
 PHONE: (732) 294-2574 ♦ FAX: (732) 294-2575

Pat Baker/Stacy Meyers

Program Coordinator/Dept. Secretary
Jersey Shore Medical Center
 PHONE: (732) 776-4477 ♦ FAX: (732) 776-4880

Cheryl Laviola

Office Coordinator
 Diabetes Management Center
Meridian Health System at Riverview
 PHONE: (732) 530-2555 ♦ FAX: (732) 224-3916

MONMOUTH COUNTY cont'd.

Shirley Stolz
 Clinic Case Aide
Monmouth Health Center (Monmouth Medical Center)
 PHONE: (732) 923-7100 ♦ FAX: (732) 923-7104

MORRIS COUNTY

Debbie Burnet
 Lab Manager, Customer Service
Morristown Memorial Hospital
 PHONE: (973) 971-4177 ♦ FAX: (973) 540-1964

Phyllis Sperry

Manager, Building Services
Saint Clares Medical Center
 PHONE: (973) 989-3073 ♦ FAX: (973) 989-3520

OCEAN COUNTY

Carmen Gabriele
 Director, Environmental Services
Community Medical Center
 PHONE: (732) 240-8005 ♦ FAX: (732) 818-4001

Albert Lazaro

Director of Environmental Services
Kimball Medical Center
 PHONE: (732) 363-1900 ♦ FAX: (732) 886-4658

Donna Sacerdote

Manager
Medical Center of Ocean County - Brick
 PHONE: (732) 840-3390 ♦ FAX: (732) 840-3286

Richard DeCicco

Coordinator, Housekeeping
Medical Center of Ocean County - Point Pleasant
 PHONE: (732) 295-6490 ♦ FAX: (732) 840-3286

Carol Schoenberger

Manager, Health Resources
Southern Ocean County Hospital
 PHONE: (609) 978-8999 ♦ FAX: (609) 978-3079

PASSAIC COUNTY

Connie Colon
 Director, Environmental Services
Barnert Hospital
 PHONE: (973) 977-6699 ♦ FAX: (973) 977-6838

SOMERSET COUNTY

Vipin Patel
 Manager, Sterile Processing
Somerset Medical Center
 PHONE: (908) 685-2200 ext. 3258 ♦ FAX: (908) 685-2837

SOMERSET COUNTY cont'd.

Judith Iselin
Diabetes Center Program Coordinator
Somerset Diabetes Center
PHONE: (908) 685-2846 ♦ FAX: (908) 685-2837

UNION COUNTY

Joyce Hebbe, RN
Infection Control Coordinator
Elizabeth General Medical Center
PHONE: (908) 629-8398 ♦ FAX: (908) 629-8972

John Caga
Medical Waste Coordinator
Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center
PHONE: (908) 668-2531 ♦ FAX: (908) 668-2078

Pat Jablonski, RN, BSN, CDE
Diabetes Nurse Educator
Rahway Hospital
PHONE: (732) 499-6056 ♦ FAX: (732) 499-6276

Nada R. Raiser
Administrative Director, Diabetes Mgmt. Center
Saint Elizabeth Hospital
PHONE: (908) 527-5423 ♦ FAX: (908) 527-5425

WARREN COUNTY

Rich Markle
Environmental Services
Warren Hospital
PHONE: (908) 859-6700 ♦ FAX: (908) 859-6848

LIST OF RESOURCES

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
Central Jersey Chapter
3430 Sunset Avenue
Suite 21-A
Ocean, NJ 07712
(732) 219-6654

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
120 Wall Street
19th Floor
New York, NY 10005
(800) 223-1138

American Diabetes Association
1660 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 232-3472

LIST OF RESOURCES cont'd.

American Diabetes Association (New Jersey)
200 Cottontail Lane
Somerset, New Jersey 08873
PHONE: (732) 469-7979 or (888) 342-2383 (calls from
NJ only)

American Association of Diabetes
Educators
100 West Monroe
4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(800) 338-3633

International Diabetes Center
3800 Park Nicollet Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(888) 825-6315

New Jersey Hospital Association
760 Alexander Road
Princeton, NJ 08543
(609) 275-4000

Visiting Nurse Association
of Central Jersey
141 Bodman Place
Red Bank, NJ 07701-1096
(732) 747-1204