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Submission ID: P08.6Z6.X42.DD0

Part 6, Section 6.33

Sector: 7660 - Service Sector, Health Care and Social Assistance

Name: Renee Kennedy

Title: RN

Type: Management for medium employer

Organization: Peace Arch Hospital

Submission:

I am requesting with re: to safe needles/sharps - that the following be implemented immediately: the inclusion of intramuscular & subcutaneous needles, scalpels and sutures. The "safest" means of devices need to be mandated. One must consider the fiscally prudent point that - a protected/safe worker costs far less than that of an injured/high risk worker. There needs to be a means of tracking needle/sharp stick injuries in order to investigate, take corrective measures and maintain follow-up. It is imperative that the front-line workers have input into the decision[s] of safe devices as it is the front line that handles these instruments. There must also be regulations that consider no hand to hand passing of sharps and consider neutral space.

As an RN, I was required to provide IM sedation prior to a patient's shock treatment therapy. The patient was very large and very aggressive. Even with two nurse aides assisting to hold this resident still while I gave them this IM injection - the resident managed to get their arm free and strike out at the writer when the needle was submerged in the patient's leg. The needle bent over in the patient's leg. The patient, myself and the fellow care workers were at very high risk for further injury. It was frightening.

Our needle containers are often filled to overcapacity with IM and s/c needles - which is a major risk for injury. There is also huge risk with recapping these needles in order to transport them to a proper waste container. Needles/sharps are also occasionally found in bedding or at bedsides - which also proposes a huge risk for health care workers and their patients.

Q: The proposed change is easy to understand

A: Neutral

Q: The reasons given in the explanatory notes to support this change are relevant

A: Strongly Agree

Q: The proposed change will have a direct effect on the work carried out at my workplace

A: Neutral

Q: The proposed change will have a positive impact on the health or safety at my workplace

A: Neutral

Q: I support the proposal
A: Neutral

Q: I will participate in the regulatory review on-line process in
future
A: Agree
