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Submission ID: P08.726.WV2.V1Q

Part 6, Section 6.33

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

Name: Diane Southwick

Title: Registered Nurse

Type: Worker for large employer

Organization: Fraser Health Authority

Submission:

I'm writing in response to your proposed new Sharps Regulations. Although I commend you in regards to finally addressing this work related hazard your regulations do not go far enough. It is important that you understand that is imperative that frontline workers need to be involved in the selection of the devices to be used in order to provide the safest device possible. Too often money is the bottom line and the most inexpensive barely compliant equipment is bought. We have seen this in the community as we are now seeing repetitive strain injuries to staff who are using a flip top type of sharps.

In addition, the employer needs to be required to develop a tracking method for injuries. The regulation needs to cover best practices like no hand to hand passing or neutral space and to cover devices used for intramuscular, subcutaneous, scalpels & sutures. The regulation needs to take effect immediately.

Speaking from experience it is not fun having a needle stick injury as I have experienced this a couple of times. The last time was some years ago. I required the Hepatitis Injections and at that time testing for HIV was 1x/yr for 7 yrs leaving you to worry that at any time you would revert to positive. Now, however one is required to take the very toxic expensive medications in prevention. This could all be avoided if the regulations are tightened sooner than later.

Please reconsider tightening the regulations now.

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: Agree

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

A: Agree

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

A: Agree

Q: I support the proposal  
A: Disagree

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

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