

6.10

NOV 27 2006

To. Anne Burch.

Worksafe bc.

Fr. Myrna Allison RN
4 pgs including cover.

Copy of presentation that was
to have been presented at
the public hearings in Kelowna
on November 27, 2006.

Thanks for taking my concerns
into consideration; - Myrna

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am a registered nurse and am presently employed as an Emergency nurse.

Over the course of my career I have seen many patients die due to Aids and hepatitis C.

I fully support the proposed changes to the Regulations that include all medical sharps. These changes will certainly decrease the number of injuries to health care workers.

I am glad to see that the proposed regulations will include scalpels and sutures. I work in a small Emergency department. At least once a week nurses find dirty scalpels or suture needles left on the trays. The proposed regulations will definitely help to decrease injuries in this area

My intent was to do a visual demonstration at this point.

I have a nurse at my facility that gave an intramuscular injection. She followed hospital protocol----give injection, do not cap needle, put dirty syringe and needle into k-basin, take basin

to sharps container and put syringe and needle into sharps container. When she picked up the needle she somehow stuck her index finger with the dirty needle.

I feel that the time frames for implementation are too far away. As you have just seen, a nurse was exposed to a dirty needle and she was doing everything in her power to keep herself safe. We need these changes to occur sooner rather than later. Had the proposed changes been implemented this nurse would not have been exposed and she would not now be going through the regular testing for HIV and Hepatitis C. not to even mention the changes that have had to occur in her personal life as she attempts to protect her spouse from being exposed to these two life threatening illnesses.

I note that the purposed regulations do not require the Employer to consult with the OH&S committees. These are the people who use the devices and certainly have a vested interest in ensuring that workers are safe. They know what works best for them.

Approximately nine months ago the Interior health Authority had equipment fair. They looked at different needle less systems that were available.

Every system demonstrated also had a costing attached to it.

The system selected should have been based on the safest device; however it was selected based on cost.

How much is a workers life worth?????

All medical sharps injuries need to be logged, whether or not there has been any time loss.

If this type of information were collected, we would be able to identify high risk areas and look at how changes could be made to the area in the hopes of being able to decrease injuries further.

I thank-you for putting forth the proposed regulations, however the changes need to occur sooner. I suggest July 2007 and employers need to consult with the workers and include them in the selection of the devices.

Myrna Allison RN