

Aurora **safety** Solutions

needlestick safety

It is estimated that more than **800,000 injuries** occur annually in the United States from needles and other sharps. More than half of these injuries are never officially reported. You should always report your injuries to your employer immediately to ensure that you receive proper follow-up medical care.

Needlestick injuries can occur at any time during the use or disposal of a device. For example, 40 percent of injuries occur during use, another 40 percent occur after use and before disposal, and 15 percent are disposal-related. Recapping needles, a practice that is prohibited, still accounts for nearly 5 percent of needlestick injuries. Make sure you **never recap needles**, dispose of used needles in sharps disposal containers and avoid overfilling sharps disposal containers!

These exposures carry the risk of infection with Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. Each of these viruses poses a different risk if a health care worker is exposed. These infections are known as blood borne pathogens which are materials in blood that can spread diseases from person to person. Blood borne pathogens can spread from one person to another through direct or indirect contact with blood or other body fluids.

If you experience a needlestick or sharps injury or are exposed to the blood or other body fluid of a client during the course of your work, immediately follow these steps:

- **Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water.**
- **Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water.**

- **Irrigate eyes with clean water or saline.**
- **Report the incident to your supervisor.**
- **Immediately seek medical treatment.**

Remember, we are **NEVER to recap needles**. These exposures could potentially cause an employees to be infected with a blood borne disease. We do not want this to happen to you! Please take your time, stay focused and follow every standard precaution as listed in policy 3.A.04 Infection Control. While Aurora is responsible for providing the equipment and supplies you need to prevent the spread of diseases, you are responsible for following the rules for using proper equipment, supplies and techniques at all times!



For more information please visit our employee website:
www.Employee.AuroraServices.com