

# Appropriate Sharps Disposal - In service



**Multiple Sessions in  
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Biological Safety Officers

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# What happens when a sharp is inappropriately disposed into a bag?

- You may get injured
- Your colleague may get injured
- Facilities custodians may get injured

This is an enormous liability for the College and University

Sharps must be disposed into the wall-mounted sharps container



# Regulated Medical Waste Management

- Wall charts identifying appropriate disposal routes for regulated medical waste are posted throughout the clinics
- Please take note of the types of materials that require disposal in a sharps container
  - Endodontic files
  - Dental wires
  - Any syringes with a needle
  - Scalpels
  - Dental Burrs
  - Anesthetic needles

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
College of Dental Medicine



# These items are all sharps

Part of unused kit – Even unused sharps as part of a kit must be segregated prior to disposal.



Blunt needle – Needles used to dispense etching solution are still sharps



# Compliance rounds

- EH&S and clinic administrators perform compliance rounds to monitor waste bags for inappropriately disposed sharps.
- Penalties for non-compliance can include revocation of clinic privileges.



# How do I do the right thing?

- You make a decision every time you discard something in the clinic – Make that decision the right one.
- Look out for your colleagues. If you see an unsafe practice, say something.
- As well as watching over what happens with the patient, Faculty should carefully observe how materials are disposed, and correct any aberrant behaviors.