Appropriate Sharps Disposal - In service



Multiple Sessions in Sept./Oct. 2017



Biological Safety Officers
Christopher Aston Ph.D. <u>ca2511@columbia.edu</u>
Aderemi Dosunmu Ph.D. <u>ad3241@columbia.edu</u>

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

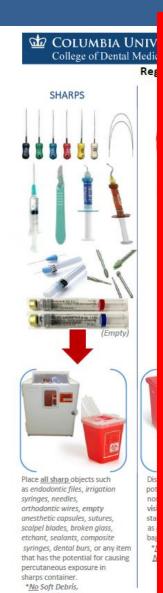






Regulated Medical Waste Management

- 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





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.