welcome to the
illinois medical sharps
safe management dialogue

Chicago, IL
March 27, 2018

a special thank you to our meeting sponsor:
venue sponsored by

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE
breakfast + java brought to you by

Stericycle®
lunch brought to you by

SWANCC

SWALCO

SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

ILCSWMA

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE
overview
illinois medical sharps
safe management dialogue

Scott Cassel
Chief Executive Officer & Founder
Product Stewardship Institute
about the product stewardship institute
meeting agenda
key aspects of discussion

- problem
- focus
- goals
- barriers
- solutions
key aspects of discussion

- problem
- focus
- goals
- barriers
- solutions

This initiative will **focus** on sharps generated in non-traditional health care settings, including households, hotels, casinos, restaurants, airports, and other public venues.
importance of safe sharps management

Marta Keane
Chairperson
Illinois Product Stewardship Council
+
Recycling Program Specialist
Will County, IL
Illinois law and guidance on sharps management

James Jennings
Manager, Waste Reduction and Compliance Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

IL EPA Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal Fact Sheet
problems
related to sharps management

employee health & safety
Impact of Sharps on the Recycling Industry

IL Product Stewardship Institute
Medical Sharps Stakeholder Dialogue

Lisa Disbrow

March 27, 2018
Sharps Contamination

- Recycling facilities receive sharps on a daily basis in the recycling stream.
- It is believed that 1 out of every 12 households includes someone that uses sharps.
- Well intentioned residents are placing sharp containers in recycling carts which become broken and open on the recycling sort line.
Impact to Recycling Industry

- Recycling Facilities train designated employees to use special tools and protective equipment to collect sharps from sorting lines.

- WM requires recycling facility worker to wear specialized gloves and other protective gear to protect from needle sticks.

- WM has estimated that line stoppage to collect sharps over 500x in 2017

- How can the Recycling Industry work with local governments and medical industry to educate public on proper disposal?
Illinois Public Stewardship Council
Sharps Handling Risk Management
2018
National Service infrastructure across the United States

32 years
Perfecting engineering and sanitization of reusable medical waste containment systems

128,000
Services fulfilled annually

20
Plants and transfer stations

101
Vehicles in our service fleet

4,950
Customers partnering with us across the United States

550
Staff across a national footprint
Our Why

Making Healthcare Safer

Since its establishment in 1986, Daniels has been driven by a single imperative... to reduce risk to healthcare professionals and the environment.
THE 2015 EXPO-STOP BLOOD EXPOSURE SURVEY ESTIMATES THAT...

“Each year, **320,000** needlestick & other sharps related injuries are sustained by healthcare personnel in the USA.”
**SHARPSMART PEER REVIEWED STUDY:**

**Safety Engineered Devices:**

Use and Activation in USA

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**What was the study?**

The incidence of Sharps Injuries (SI) in the US fell significantly with the mandatory use of safety engineered devices (SED) in 2001 but has remained static ever since. The extent of SED use in the USA and the proportion of SED activated correctly is unknown.

This study "Use and activation of safety engineered sharps devices in a sample of 5 Florida healthcare facilities" took a sampling of sharps containers from five facilities in Florida. Contents were decanted, categorized and counted to identify the proportion of hollow-bore SED among the sharps present, and the proportion of SED correctly activated.

---

**What were the results?**

69 Gallons of sharps (89Lb) from 18 sharps containers were examined:

- 54.4% of hollow-bore sharps were conventional (non SED) sharps
- 39.9% of conventional needles were capped
- 45.6% of hollow-bore sharps were SED
- 21.6% of SED were not activated or activated incorrectly
- 42.5% of all devices were discarded ‘sharp’

"It is disturbing that 39.9% of conventional needles were capped prior to discard, and 42.5% of all devices were discarded as ‘naked’ sharps. In this sampling it is of concern that 12 years after U.S. SED legislation, 64.3% of healthcare professionals placed themselves at risk by capping or discarding naked needles. Many non-activated phlebotomy devices were visibly blood-contaminated."

---

How Sharp Injuries Occur

The Following practices and devices are shown to be associated with an increased risk of Sharps Injuries.

- Use of disposable hypodermic syringe-needle
- Suturing
- Recapping needles
- Not using neutral zone to transfer sharps
- Disconnecting needle from syringe
- Use of wing-steeled needles
- Activating sharps safety device
- Use of needles to access IV lines
Hierarchy of Sharps Injury Controls

**Administrative Controls (Resources)**
Example: Policies, Staffing, Training, Support

**Engineering Controls**
Example: Safety Engineered Sharps Devices

**Elimination of Hazards**
Eg: Needleless IV, Oral Therapy, Jet Injectors

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
Example: Gloves

**Work Practice Controls (Rules)**
Example: No re-cap, No needle removal
Thank you.
problems
related to sharps management

public health & safety
Medical Sharps Stakeholder Dialogue

Sharps Contamination in Pharmaceutical Take Back Programs

Walter S. Willis, Executive Director
Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL
March 27, 2018
Sharps Contamination in Pharmaceutical Take-back Receptacles

• SWALCO program began in 2015, required state legislation and DEA approval
• Take-back results from 26 participating municipal police departments
  – 2015: 11,067 pounds, 53.7 pounds of controlled substances
  – 2016: 10,928 pounds, 37 pounds of controlled substances
  – 2017: 13,068 pounds, 36.8 pounds of controlled substances
Sharps Contamination in Pharmaceutical Take-back Receptacles

• Sharps are a by-product of the collection program, approximately 30 gallons of sharps per 1,800 pounds of drugs sorted
  – Estimated cost of $620 per year to manage 180 gallons of sharps
  – Safety issue, plan to provide police departments with stick-proof gloves to be used when emptying collection boxes
  – Safety issue during sorting at SWALCO facility, special gloves are worn
  – All containers are clearly marked that sharps and needles are not accepted, but many people disregard
Contact Information

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@HealthyChicago

HealthyChicago@CityofChicago.org
www.CityofChicago.org/Health
public health + safety

Dan Bigg
Director
Chicago Recovery Alliance
discussion
What happens to the needles? Where do the challenges lie?

- Will County, IL: Sharps in containers get taken away by third party vendor (2x per month) for proper disposal.
- Recovery Alliance: Need for **systematic** program to consistently dispose of sharps safely.
  - Goal: fast rate of return.
  - Haz waste incinerator.

**Financial challenge:** Due to resources required to safely dispose of sharps, end up stock-piling.

- Landfilling? Permitted if sharps properly contained by **residents**.
- **Medical waste generators** can autoclave then landfill.
- Recycling facility: employee safety concern during process of protecting machinery.
discussion notes

problems

- Stericycle: **regulatory component** regarding employee safety. Do all the regs make sense?
- OSHA regs: applies to industry—does not fully penetrate to public sector.
- Opportunity to discuss: can something be done so transfer stations can accept sharps?
- Sanitation workers require comprehensive training to deal with sharps/blood-borne pathogens. Limits number of employees that can deal with this.
- **Pre-loaded, unused**, sharps waste. Meds go to public landfills.
- **Retail sector**: in pharmacies, red box may be available but no means provided for return. Go to trash or drop off if available.
Metro, OR: facing issues of sharps in recycling facilities and **sharps in public spaces**.
- Despite 100% return rate at needle exchanges, still find thousands of sharps in public spaces.
- Collection boxes: how keep them safe/clear of vandalism?
- **Training** for homeless camp clean-up.

State of VT Environmental Conservation
- **Consistent educational message** across state.
- Limitations of state-wide collection in **rural area**.
- IL Pharmacists Assoc.: if patients receive needle disposal at pharmacy, most **pharmacies would not be able to take back** that used device (not licensed for that).
- Would be cost-prohibitive for pharmacies to take back sharps waste. **Would need funding mechanism.**
- All pharmacy medical waste is OSHA exempt.
- Concern over **safety risk**.
- Daniel’s Health: OSHA guidelines focus on industry, but how **educate public sector**? Healthcare workers sharps injuries dropped after 2001 law passed.
- Need for a safe **collection device**.
- Still challenge to wastewater treatment industry: public flushes sharps waste.
discussion notes

problems

• Transfer station: better for sharps to be contained in thick plastic container?
• No sorting on floor of transfer station due to employee safety.
• When **sharps containers are compacted, get ruptured** and material will be released.
• Trash disposal not ideal for this reason. But it is legal.
existing infrastructure
for collection and disposal
overview of existing infrastructure

Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Officer & Founder
Product Stewardship Institute

scott@productstewardship.us
overview of existing infrastructure

collection

Kiosk
Mail-back

Household
garbage

treatment/disposal

Landfill?
Recycling?
Sharps Collection

IL Product Stewardship Institute
Medical Sharps Stakeholder Dialogue

Lisa Disbrow

March 27, 2018
MUNICIPAL SHARPS SERVICE

- Waste Management of Illinois currently has several kiosks in place with municipal clients.
- Citizens receive 1.4 liter sharps container (no charge).
- When filled residents drop off the container to the WM provided kiosk and receive a new container.
- Extremely well received service - answers a service need for residents who want to do the right thing for proper disposal.
- Provided as a stand-alone service for a monthly charge or as part of comprehensive municipal services contract.
WM MedWaste Tracker® - Mail back program

MedWaste Tracker® Safe Solutions for Sharps and Medical Waste

MedWaste Tracker provides efficient and affordable pre-positioning systems for management of sharps and medical waste. These are suitable for healthcare, businesses, public places, communities, and personal use.

Each MedWaste Tracker System contains:
- Sharps containers or medical waste container
- Postal authorized return system
- Prepaid postage return
- Environmental treatment and disposal
- Documentation of destruction

2.5 and the 5 Gallon Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) and sharps containers. Sold as a mailback buckets for disposal of RMW and sharps containers, or add to your basket purchase the Soil Clean Up Kit that includes all of the products necessary to safely contain and clean up a biohazard.

Step 1.
Select Container and Add to Cart

- **Sharps Collector 1.4 qt**
  - M1Q - MedWaste Tracker 1.4 qt
  - Capacity: 75 1-cc syringes, 35 5-cc syringes, 14G Pen needles
  - Dimensions: 11 x 6 x 6
  - Note: For personal use by individuals injecting infrequently from a prefilled syringe, or for pen needle usage.

- **Sharps Collector 6.9 qt**
  - M1Q - MedWaste Tracker 6.9 qt
  - Capacity: 300 1-cc syringes, 14G 3-cc syringes, 700 Pen needles
  - Dimensions: 14 x 10 x 7

- **Sharps Collector 8.2 qt**
  - M1Q - MedWaste Tracker 8.2 qt
  - Capacity: 370 1-cc syringes, 17G 3-cc syringes, 700 Pen needles
  - Dimensions: 14 x 11 x 7

Step 2.
Review Cart and Check Out

Your Shopping Cart is Empty

We offer environmentally friendly, safe and simple recycling solutions for:

- **Fluorescent Lamps**
- **Dry Cell Batteries**
- **Lithium Batteries**
- **Mercury Devices**
- **Dental Amalgam**
- **Medical Waste**
- **Pharmaceutical Waste**
- **Computers and Electronics**
- **Bottles, Cans, and Paper**
- **Plastic Bag and Shrink Wrap**
- **Aerosol Cans**
- **Printer Cartridges**

Carbon Neutral Shipping
Rest assured knowing that every purchased LampTracker mail-back kit will be carbon neutral.
Sharps, and the existing infrastructure in Northern Cook County

David Van Vooren
Executive Director

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County
• SWANCC consists of 23 Member Municipalities in Northern Cook County.
Population served is approximately 750,000 residents.

SWANCC’s Mission
Provide efficient and environmentally sound collection, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery and reuse of municipal waste.
# Specialty Collection Programs

- Electronics Recycling
  - Permanent Sites
  - One-Day Events
- Battery Recycling
  - Alkaline and Rechargeable
- Document Destruction Events
- Holiday Lights Recycling
- Pharmaceutical and Sharps Disposal
  - DEA Take-Back Days
  - Save-a-Star
- Mercury Recycling
  - Fluorescent Bulbs Recycling
  - Thermometers, Wall Switches, Thermostats

[Images of recycling materials and bins]
SWANCC’s five year collection data

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<th>FY 2013</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<td>10087 lbs</td>
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<td>Medications</td>
<td>10,823 lbs</td>
<td>10,566 lbs</td>
<td>11,075 lbs</td>
<td>10,276 lbs</td>
<td>9,669 lbs</td>
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<td>$52,201</td>
<td>$48,548</td>
<td>$44,098</td>
<td>$53,111</td>
<td>$58,120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
David Van Vooren
Executive Director

Contact Information
E-mail: dvv@swancc.org
Phone: 847-724-9205
Current Situation and Existing Infrastructure for Collection and Disposal of Sharps Waste

Selin Hoboy
VP Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Stericycle, Inc.
Introduction

• Background Environmental Safety and Health - with Stericycle 2000
• Stericycle works with a variety of healthcare providers and customers
• Provide Variety of services to customers
Overview

• Current Situation
• Challenges
• Recommendations
• Existing Options
Current Situation

• According to the CDC 2010 Estimates 7.6M people received in home care which can generate medical waste including sharps
  • 2014 22M people had diabetes
  • Approximately 13-17% use injectable insulin
• According to Safe Needle Disposal (2016) - Approximately 9M syringe users in the US generate at least 3B injections used outside of healthcare
• Resources for help: https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/index.html
Current Situation

• Medical sharps generated in the home not typically regulated
• Currently there are 9 states with bills related to sharps or needle exchange programs
• AZ, CA, IL, PA – legislation that will mandate some form of management of sharps materials
• 2 States (CA, MN) have actual regulations for home generated sharps
Challenges

• WHY DID LEGISLATION FAILED OR NOT GET STARTED IN OTHER STATES?????
• Resistance on the part of manufacturers to provide funding to set up programs
• Insurance is not involved currently
• Patients do not have money to cover cost of proper disposal or do not know their options
  • Disposal costs vary depending on program
  • Some programs offer just the container and then separate fee for shipping/disposal
  • No pick up program currently available
• Not a priority in states where funding is major issue
• Lack of legislative awareness
• Enforcement challenges
Recommendations

• Start the conversation with manufacturers – some already involved individually or with organizations: https://safeneedledisposal.org/

• Go to legislature with a plan
  – Why are we asking for the bill?
  – Why are we asking for $$$??

• Identify the Impacts:
  – Financial, legal, treatment, emotional
  – $75 - $5,000 per needle stick (CDC workbook)

• Stair step solutions – celebrate successes.
Existing Options

• Mail back programs - $$$
• Kiosk drop off - $$$
  – Initial set up, ongoing management
• Needle burners/cutters - $; risk?
• Education to consumers
  – Not in recycling
  – Get word out through other associations
• Key identify the goal:
  – Get out of solid waste/recycling?
  – Home generated legitimate use?
  – Opioid Crisis?
Use a Sharps Container

1. Visually check sharps container for hazards before handling. Read all labels.
   - MAKE SURE container is not overfilled or damaged.
   - CHECK that container is large enough to fit your sharps.

2. Put sharp in container immediately after use.
   - Keep your hands behind the sharp tip.

Discard a Sharps Container

1. Close sharps container as instructed on label.
   - Different container have different closures.

2. Bring sharps container to a sharps disposal program.

If You Cannot Get a Sharps Container...

FDA RECOMMENDS ALWAYS USING FDA-CLEARED CONTAINERS

- Stop using sharps container when 2/3 full or filled to FULL line.
- Made of heavy-duty plastic
- Tight-fitting lid that cannot be punctured
- Does not leak

These containers can break or puncture easily:
- Milk container
- Soda can
- Glass container
- Water bottle

Dispose of a household sharps container when it is 2/3 full:

2. Bring container to a sharps disposal program.

Types of Sharps Disposal Programs:
- Mail back programs
- Drop box or supervised collection site
- Special waste pick-up service
- At-home needle collection device
- Syringe exchange program (SEP)
- Hazardous waste collection site

Find a program through your local waste or public health department, your doctor, hospital, pharmacist, or clinic.

For more information on sharps, visit: www.sharpsdisposal.org

DO NOT put sharps container in RECYCLING!

* In some areas it is illegal to dispose of sharps in trash. Please follow your community guidelines.

DO NOT PUT LOOSE SHARPS IN THE TRASH

7 BILLION SHARPS ARE DISCARDED EVERY YEAR
Up to 850,000 people are infected with HIV from used sharps.
THANK YOU!!!!!

Selin Hoboy
shoboy@stericycle.com
www.stericycle.com
847-943-6685
Illinois Public Stewardship Council
Sharps Processing and Treatment
Waste Management Regulatory Risk Scale

Understanding the risk associated with handling healthcare waste streams, Daniels drives best-in-class practices through its suite of clinically engineered products designed to manage every wastestream, proven methodology to reduce risk through the reduction of needle stick injuries, and solutions that dramatically improve efficiencies within a healthcare setting.

Less touches, less risk.
SINCE 2003, DANIELS REUSABLE SHARPS CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS HAVE RESULTED IN...

32,732,859 containers saved from landfill

WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO

87,802 tonnes of greenhouse gases

57,394,051 pounds of plastic
Sharpsmart Operational Flow

The operational flow of the Sharpsmart System:

1. Customers receive clean sterile containers at their facility loading dock.
2. Containers are moved to locations within the facility by internal delivery carts.
3. Filled and locked containers are relocated to the loading dock and stored in transporters awaiting collection.
4. Daniels trucks collect the transporters containing ‘FULL’ containers, and at the same time drop off transporters containing ‘EMPTY’ containers.
5. Filled containers are received at the Daniels treatment facility and customer waste information is recorded prior to treatment.
6. Containers are robotically decanted, high pressure washed and sterilized ready for re-use.
7. Sterile containers are loaded into transporters ready for dispatch to customer.
8. The decanted waste is treated in either an autoclave or an incinerator and then disposed of by a third party.
Thank you.
Discussion
other company programs?
discussion notes
infrastructure

• U. Illinois: concerns over **routine maintenance** of programs of a city. (Hospital program might be different).

• Waste getting into waterways? Tech/training to handle program?

• Appropriate collection system depends on **volume**:
  • Smaller containers might be ok for municipality, but employee training is critical.

• “Confetti” waste: regs depend on volume generated. Need permit if over a certain number weight. May vary by state.

• Sterilized material: what percent of normal medical waste is being recycled?
  • Stericycle and WM working on issue. **Not big market currently.** No outlet for material.
  • The material is half melted and must be shredded.
  • Virgin material cheaper to manage.
discussion notes
infrastructure

• Daniels: current platform does not recycle, but considering. No market today and process is cumbersome.
• Will County, IL: markets bad for plastics/electronics, markets strong for metals today.
• SWALCO: final destination of sharps material after autoclave?
  • Daniels: landfilled in IL. Certain states, might have to be autoclaved, shredded, then landfilled.
  • Stericycle: Usually landfilled. Sometimes go to waste-to-energy facility after autoclaving.
    • Challenge: Shredding after autoclaving is costly/expensive. Don’t get ROI.
    • Challenge: Material can’t be cleanly recycled separately after autoclaving. Can’t separate (cut needle) due to OSHA regs.
Could producers help separate material for easier recycling?
  - Pharma companies manufacture drug, needle company manufactures needle and attach two parts.

Needle clippers: hold certain number of needles and allow injection device to be disposed of in trash. Regs are confusing around what’s allowed.

Alameda County, CA: During destruction process, what happens to contents of prefilled sharps that make way into sharps container unused?
  - Stericycle: depends on state. CA, pharms considered regulated waste and must be thermally destroyed at haz waste facility. In IL, no such requirement. Meds left in sharps will go to autoclave facility, and liquid residue goes to WWTF or landfill.
  - Will County, IL: EPA allows us to accept epipends into drug take-back program and go to incineration.
discussion notes

infrastructure

• City of Chicago: contractor for sharps cannot transport medical waste.
15 min break
thank you to our sponsors!
education
SafeNeedleDisposal.org
A Project of NeedyMeds

Leah Zaroulis
Become a Better Healthcare Consumer

Sign Up for a March Webinar

There are many informative healthcare topics being presented through our March webinar schedule. Take a look and sign up for any of these upcoming webinars:

- March 13 at 1:30 p.m. ET Samaritans: Suicide Prevention
- March 21 at 1:00 p.m. ET EyeCare America: Protect Your Sight and Empower Your Life!
- March 27 at 2:00 p.m. ET Health Websites: Which to Trust and Why
- March 28 at 1:00 p.m. ET Meal Propping for Spoonies

Over $237,765,715.89 Saved With NeedyMeds Drug Card

NeedyMeds Storylines Mobile App — Free self-care tool with access to drug discounts

NeedyMeds Storylines is a free self-care app that makes it easy for you to track and manage your health conditions. It also allows you to access the NeedyMeds Drug Discount Card right at your fingertips! Click to learn more.
What is NeedyMeds?

NeedyMeds is a national nonprofit dedicated to educating and empowering those seeking affordable healthcare.

NeedyMeds achieves its mission by providing information on healthcare programs, offering direct assistance and facilitating programs via their website and toll-free Help Line.
Cost Savings Resources

- Prescription Assistance Programs
- Diagnosis Based Assistance Programs
- Medical Transportation
- $4 Generic Drug Discount Programs
- Coupons & Rebates
- Free/Low-Cost Sliding Scale Clinics
- Camps, Retreats & Scholarships
- Government Programs
Drug Discount Card

Our free drug discount card can save users up to 80% off the cash price of:

◦ Prescription medications
◦ OTC meds and supplies written as a prescription
◦ Pet prescriptions purchased at a pharmacy
Helpline Contact Information

800.503.6897
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm EST
info@needymeds.org
Safely disposing of used sharps is important.
Sharps that are not disposed of safely may cause injury.

How to Dispose of Used Sharps
Disposal rules and regulations vary across states and localities.
Click on a state to see the guidance or regulations for safely disposing of used sharps in your area.
SafeNeedleDisposal.org

- Home-generated medical sharps disposal
- Information resource for disposal programs, state and local guidelines
Disposal Programs

- 24/7 Drop Boxes
- Supervised Drop-Off Collection Sites
- Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facilities
- One-Day Collection Events
- Container Exchange Programs
- Mail-Back Programs
- Needle Clipper Programs
Additional Resources

- Sharps Management Information
- Directory of Free Container and Mail-Back Programs offered by Pharma Companies
- Online Print Materials
- FAQ page
- Directory of State Waste Agency Contacts for Businesses and Medical Facilities
Searching Local Options

- Search by State
- ZIP Code Search

Search for local disposal options: Enter ZIP Code Distance (mi) Search
Illinois At a Glance

- **State guidelines** encourage patients to first check for availability of collection sites in their local area or to use a mail-back service.
- Patients are allowed to dispose of their used sharps in the household trash in secure, plastic containers.
- 67 known disposal programs currently listed on Safe Needle Disposal website.
- No known programs in Chicago and other major cities.
State Trends

- 48 states allow disposal in the regular household trash
- California and Massachusetts have passed legislation banning disposal in the household trash
- New York State Law mandates hospitals and nursing homes to accept properly contained sharps from patients
- Most Florida county health departments have voluntary disposal programs
- All but 6 states have fewer than 100 known disposal programs
How You Can Help

Send me disposal programs with the following info:

- Facility/Location Name
- Address
- Contact Phone
- Contact Person (if any)
- Hours of Operation
- Container Requirements
- Fees (if any)
- Residency Restrictions (if any)
Contact Information

Toll-free Helpline: 800.643.1643
Business Line: 978.281.6666 (ask for Leah)
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm EST
info@safeneedledisposal.org
sharps management: the patient’s perspective

Bruce Taylor
Director, Government Affairs and Market Access
Dexcom
Sharps Disposal- Patient Perspective

- Patient's don’t know what they don’t Know
- Healthcare provides are time strapped and they don’t know either
- 99.993% of the time patients are on their own to manage their conditions
- In 38 years of diabetes sharps disposal has never been raised in any clinical visit
Dexcom Insight

- Patients are unaware of their responsibilities for sharps disposal
- Laws are different for every state and even some counties
- Patients want to take accountability but need informed
Problem Definition

- Worker safety?
- Environment?
- A clear definition of the problem needs to be established
- If you don’t know where you are going any road will get you there
- Success Metrics
Policy Considerations

- Fact based - Where is the data
- Risk Definition
- Avoid policy driven by emotion
- What are the unintended consequences to the end user of Medications that use sharps to administer
discussion
discussion notes

education

• *(Call dropped! Missing first point)*
• Challenge: where to send collected sharps.
• Pharmaceutical companies participating in SafeNeedleDisposal.org. Opportunity to collaborate with other associations.
  • Pharms coalition that have been funding website listed on homepage.
• Industry efforts: research and internal consensus on standard definitions across states. E.g., what is a sharp, containerization, etc.
  • Want website to be fully launched before anyone speaks on behalf of coalition.
• Concern over disposal by non-”lifestyle”/non-regular sharps users.
• Other purveyors of information: vets, fertility clinics, etc.
discussion notes

education

• Hard copy pamphlet dispensed by healthcare providers should include info on sharps disposal (for those without internet access).
• Material/information distributed with any Rx (including label on the bottle) are highly regulated/require pre-approval.
  • Requires FDA approval.
• Pharmacies can voluntarily distribute information on sharps disposal.
• IL: new Rx regulation that would require consultation with pharmacist. Potential to include safe disposal?
  • IL pharmacist association: best approach not to regulate what providers have to say.
  • Was once a mandate to include safe disposal pamphlet.
  • Recommended: CDC pamphlet.
facilitated discussion
solutions + best practices
goals

• safety and convenience for ALL
  • Generator/consumer/general public
  • Waste management/wastewater treatment employee
  • Healthcare providers
  • Hospitality industry

• clear and consistent messaging/education

• illinois strategy for collection/disposal

• progress towards national harmonization

• sustainability
  • Financing
  • Materials use
discussion: what is safe sharps disposal?

• garbage disposal with authorized container
• sharps take back
• tiered approach to management?
discussion notes
what is safe disposal

• Sharps collection system for the public
  • Best/safe practices vs. “safer” practice (difficult logistically)
  • More collection sites needed (voluntary basis?)
• Data on containerized/trashed/landfill vs. public collection system?
  • Survey of public: what would sharps users prefer?
• Government and industry working together.
  • Industry’s voluntary initiative
  • Role/position of IEPA?
• Regulatory hurdles:
  • Households are exempt regarding waste going to landfill
  • Businesses not exempt. Problem for healthcare waste co.’s
Discussion notes

What is safe disposal

- Alameda county: passed **sharps EPR ordinance** for safe collection/disposal.
- Approved stewardship plan: mail-back, 55 kiosks, 4 HHW facilities that accept sharps.
- Dupage County: Tiered approach.
- Only option without ban at statewide level.
discussion: how do we fund safe sharps disposal?

- voluntary industry program
- government program
- mandatory/epr program
discussion notes
how do we fund safe disposal?

• Alameda County, CA: Does not yet have metrics on cost per person per year for industry to run EPR program.
  • HHW collecting >10 years.
  • Not that expensive to pay for disposal, but full EPR program include education/outreach.

• PPSWG: high cost of administration compared to disposal. Estimates 100’s millions dollars.
  • Alameda County: estimates 100,000’s dollars. Per county cost of administration reduced by using the same stewardship organization. One entity working on regional basis.

• Will County: Tiered approach that makes landfilling last option.
sharps epr program
example of sustainable financing

• existing sharps epr laws in US
• key elements of sharps epr laws
• goals of sharps epr programs
• status of sharps epr programs
next steps

- key takeaways
- meeting notes
- follow up discussion
next steps notes

• Meet again as stakeholder group
  • Establish committee to tackle regulatory issues.
  • E.g., regs around pharmacies/hospitals/smaller healthcare facilities accepting sharps waste.
• Learn more about industry initiative
• Get more retailer chains (pharmacies) to step up
• More data (survey)?
• Centralize data with SafeNeedleDisposal.org
• Broaden stakeholder group to include:
  • Any locations that do immunizations/give injections.
  • Understand what the barriers are to their management of sharps waste.
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