

Sharps Use

This SOP applies to handling sharps (needles, blades, glass items, wires, etc.) with biohazardous materials. Sharps increase the risk of exposure to hazards through skin penetration. Exposure control measures include substituting sharp objects with safer alternatives (e.g., plastics), engineering controls (e.g., retractable blades, self-sheathing needles), work practices (e.g., immediate disposal after use) and/or specialized PPE (e.g., cut-resistant gloves).

Procedure:

1. Set up work area with sharps container in arm's reach
2. Conduct procedure following lab-specific protocols, keeping non-dominant hand away from sharp object
3. Dispose of sharp into the sharps container immediately after use

Cautions & Considerations

- Sharps must be disposed of following the Sharps Medical Waste SOP
- Safety precautions for injections of biohazardous materials into animals are described in the Biohazardous Animal: Injections SOP
- Replace traditional sharps with safer alternatives whenever possible
- Needles should never be bent, broken, sheared or recapped
- Use equipment (e.g., forceps, ring stand) to hold sample(s) instead of non-dominant hand
- Clean broken glass or spilled sharps using a broom/dustpan, tongs or forceps and not hands
- Place reusable sharps in a hard-walled container that removes them from the work area after or between uses
- Disinfect reusable sharps by autoclaving or following the Decontamination SOP using extra precautions to prevent injury

Resources

- [Biosafety Manual](#)
- [BMBL 5th Edition](#)