

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EXPOSURE POLICY

### NEEDLESTICK POLICY

#### POLICY:

The Department of Research shall utilize engineer sharp injuries protection program with "anti-stick safety" features to reduce the risk of exposure incident or needle stick incident. To accomplish this objective all staff shall utilize and consider the design of the needle device, the application, the appropriateness and training of use of all sharp devices. Engineer controls used by all laboratories and clinic shall include, 1. needless systems 2. Engineer sharps injury protection for needle device and 3. non needle sharps for the safety and protection of all laboratory and clinical staff.

All laboratory and clinical staff shall evaluate, select and maintain devices that protect workers from exposure incidents.

#### PROCEDURES:

1. Ensure that all laboratory and clinical staff are properly trained in the safe use and disposal of needles.
2. Modified work practices that pose a needle stick injury hazard to make them safer.
3. To promote safety awareness in the work environment when using sharp objects.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of prevention efforts and provide feedback on performance.
5. Avoid the use of needles when safe and effective alternatives are available.
6. Select and evaluate devices with the safety features.
7. Use the DEVICES with appropriate safety features to prevent needle stick during your research procedures.
8. Avoid recapping of needles.
9. Plan for safe handling and PROMPT disposal of needles or sharp objects before beginning any procedure using needles.

10. DISPOSE of use needles or contaminated needles promptly in appropriate sharp disposal containers.
11. Participate in all annual training and follow recommended infection prevention practices including HEPATITIS B vaccination.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All principal investigators are responsible for ensuring that the LABORATORY staff are properly trained in procedures that will prevent needle stick or prevent injury.
2. All laboratory staff shall use appropriate techniques in the use, handling and disposal of all needles and sharp objects.