



Needlesticks

Needlestick injuries can expose workers to bloodborne pathogens, which can cause serious infections or result in death. OSHA estimates 600,000 to 800,000 needlestick injuries occur each year in the healthcare industry.

Needlesticks may happen when recapping needles or while transferring body fluid between containers. They also could occur because of failing to dispose of used needles properly in puncture-resistant sharps containers or because of overfilling sharps containers.

Health risks

Bloodborne pathogens that pose the most serious health risks include:

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

An HBV vaccination is recommended for all healthcare workers unless they are immune because of previous exposure. The vaccine is effective in preventing infection in workers exposed to hepatitis B. There are no vaccines to prevent HCV or HIV.

Needles that Cause Needlesticks

- Hypodermic
- Blood-collection
- Suture
- Intravenous (IV) delivery systems

Safety Tips

- Avoid using needles where safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Help your employer select and evaluate devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlesticks.
- Use devices with safety features as provided by your employer.
- Avoid recapping needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
- Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps disposal containers.
- Report all needlesticks and sharps-related injuries promptly to make sure you receive appropriate follow-up care.
- Report any needlestick hazards you observe to your employer.
- Participate in infection-prevention training.
- Get a hepatitis B vaccination.

Source: OSHA

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

Founded in 1925, CopperPoint Insurance Companies is a western-based super regional commercial insurance company and a leading provider of workers' compensation and commercial insurance solutions. With an expanded line of insurance products and a growing 10 state footprint in the western United States, CopperPoint is in a strong position to meet the evolving needs of our brokers, agents and customers.

The company has \$4.8 billion in total assets and an enterprise surplus of \$1.4 billion. The CopperPoint Family of Insurance Companies include CopperPoint, Alaska National and PacificComp. All companies are rated A (Excellent) by AM Best.