

CHEMUNG COUNTY NURSING FACILITY

DATE: R October 30, 2012 (1/90, 4/92, 2/97, 3/05, 7/11)

SUBJECT: SHARPS COLLECTION FROM PRIVATE RESIDENCES

PURPOSE:

1. To establish a procedure for the safe collection and disposal of sharps generated in private residences of Chemung County residents.
2. To promote public health standards by establishing a safe disposal method for sharps generated in private residences.
3. To comply with Chapter 438 of the Laws of 1993, Public Health Law of New York State.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Sharps from Private Residences: Household generated waste which is the result of self-maintenance programs for injectable medications. Sharps are restricted to needles, syringes and lancets for the purpose of this public service.
2. Containers: Containers used by private residents to store used sharps. Containers must provide protection against needle sticks and, at a minimum, must be shatter proof, leak proof and puncture resistant.
3. Private Residence: Homes or apartments in which residents of Chemung County dwell. Commercial businesses, health care providers, and adult care homes and out of county residents are not eligible to utilize the sharps collection program.

POLICY:

1. The Health Center shall provide a sharps collection service to eligible residents of Chemung County effective 07/01/96. There shall be no charge to residents for this service.
2. Residents are responsible for transporting sharps in adequate containers to be deposited at the following location and hours:

**Reception Desk, Main Lobby
Chemung County Nursing Facility
103 Washington Street
Elmira, New York 14901
737-2001**

**Hours: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Monday – Friday, excluding holidays
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM Saturday - Sunday**

3. The Receptionist shall examine containers to verify that they are shatterproof, leakproof and puncture resistant. Containers which are not appropriate shall not be accepted by the Health Center, and the resident shall be asked to take the sharps home, place them in a suitable container, and return them to the Center.

Unsuitable containers which shall be rejected include:

- Glass items
- Containers with no tops
- Containers which have sharps sticking out

- Containers which are leaking
 - Containers with contents other than sharps
4. The Receptionist shall place the sharps in the collection container located at the Reception Desk which has been designated for hazardous medical waste and contact the Central Supply Clerk to inform that a container is ready for pick-up.
 5. The Central Supply Clerk shall pick up residential sharps from the Reception Desk at least once a week or more often if the container is full. These sharps containers shall be handled and accounted for in the manner set forth in Section I of this policy. When the Central Supply Clerk is absent, the responsibility for sharps collection shall be with a Maintenance person assigned by the Maintenance Supervisor.
 6. The Receptionists, Central Supply Clerk and Maintenance staff shall be given instructions and training on the policies and procedures set forth in this policy.
 7. In the event of a spill of sharps, the following precautions shall be taken **IMMEDIATELY**:
 - a. The employee who observes or discovers the spill shall call for assistance from Maintenance and Housekeeping and cordon off the area of spill to prevent access by any staff, visitors or residents.
 - b. Maintenance shall utilize heavy gloves and tongs to pick up the spilled sharps and place the items in suitable container with a cover. Sharps should **NOT** be picked up by hand.
 - c. When all sharps have been collected and secured, Housekeeping shall mop the area of spill with germicidal cleaner.
 8. Any individual who is punctured or cut by a sharps, or who is exposed to the contents from used sharps, shall be considered to have had an exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The procedures outlined in the policy Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens shall be followed promptly.
 9. This policy for sharps collection from private residences shall be available upon request at the Reception Desk.