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Prevention and Wellness Across the Life Span

APHA 140TH ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO
OCT 27-31, 2012 SAN FRANCISCO, CA



Infancy



Teen Years



Retirement

268951 Sharps Injuries and Devices from Pre-packaged Kits

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 : 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

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Background: Sharps injuries (SI) among healthcare workers continue to be a significant public health problem, potentially exposing workers to more than 20 bloodborne diseases.

Methods: Since 2001, the MDPH Sharps Injury Surveillance System has collected data to characterize SI among hospital workers. The system has revealed the continued use of devices lacking sharps injury prevention features. In 2006, in response to hospital staff concern about injuries with devices in prepackaged kits, MDPH began collecting additional information to distinguish injuries associated with devices in kits.

Results: Data on SI among hospitals workers during 2006-2010 were examined to identify injuries associated with devices in prepackaged kits. Of the 15,163 injuries reported, 20% (3,057) involved devices from prepackaged kits. A majority of these kit-related injuries (55%, 1,678) occurred with devices lacking sharps injury prevention features, most commonly IV stylets, scalpels and hypodermic needles & syringes for which devices with sharps injury prevention features are widely available.

Conclusions: OSHA requires the use of devices with sharps injury prevention features, including devices in prepackaged kits. Data demonstrate that device manufacturers and kit packers continue to dispense products that place hospitals in violation of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard and MDPH regulations. Suppliers will make changes to kits upon request, creating regulation-compliant custom kits, often at a premium cost. Eleven years after revision of the BBP Standard explicitly requiring use of devices with sharps injury prevention features, suppliers should work to ensure that longstanding regulatory requirements are met with standard kits, rather than costly custom kits.

Learning Areas:

Occupational health and safety

Public health or related laws, regulations, standards, or guidelines

Learning Objectives:

1) List the types of devices associated with sharps injuries 2) Describe various mechanisms of sharps injury prevention features 3) Discuss key components of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard

Keywords: Occupational Surveillance, Health Care Workers

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Qualified on the content I am responsible for because: For the previous 11 years I have run the MDPH Sharps Injury Surveillance System, collecting and analyzing data regarding sharps injuries among hospital workers. Data is then used to target areas for intervention.

Any relevant financial relationships? No

I agree to comply with the American Public Health Association Conflict of Interest and Commercial Support Guidelines, and to disclose to the participants any off-label or experimental uses of a commercial product or service discussed in my presentation.

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