

	Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center Policy Manual	Policy Number	1503
		Original Date	12/23/1996
		Revised Date	03/01/2016
	Department: Exposure Control Plan	Sharps Disposal	

POLICY:

Contaminated sharps shall be discarded immediately or as soon as feasible in containers that are:

- * Closable
 - * Puncture resistant
 - * Leak proof on sides and bottom
 - * Labeled or color coded in accordance with the OSHA standard
1. During use, containers for contaminated sharps shall be:
 - * Easily assessable to personnel and located as close as is feasible to the immediate area where sharps are used or can be reasonably anticipated to be found
 - * Maintained upright throughout use
 - * Replace routinely when $\frac{3}{4}$ full
 2. When moving containers of contaminated sharps from the area of use, the containers shall be:
 - * Closed immediately prior to removal or replacement to prevent spillage or protrusion of contents during handling, storage, transport, or shipping
 - * Placed in secondary containers if leakage is possible
 3. Containers shall not be opened, emptied, or cleaned.