


LAPEER COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Date Issued 03/03/2011

Date Revised 03/16/12; 10/10/14; 11/17/15; 03/22/22

CHAPTER Health/Medical	CHAPTER 03	SECTION 001	SUBJECT 35
SECTION Drugs and Medication		DESCRIPTION Disposal of Syringes Used for Intramuscular Injections	
WRITTEN BY Doris L. Bryant, B.S.N. Agency Nurse	REVISED BY Sarah Whitehead, RN, BSN Nursing Supervisor	AUTHORIZED BY  Lauren Emmons, ACSW CEO	

APPLICATION:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CMH Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Members	<input type="checkbox"/> Provider Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment Services Providers
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Services Provider Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent Contractors	<input type="checkbox"/> Students	<input type="checkbox"/> Interns
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/> Persons Served		

POLICY:

Lapeer County Community Mental Health (LCCMH) handles and disposes contaminated sharps in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act.

STANDARDS:

- A. Engineering and work practice controls are instituted to minimize incidence of occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens from accidental needlesticks.
 - 1. Engineering controls are measures that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace and include safer medical devices such as sharps with engineered injury protection and sharps disposal containers that are closable, puncture resistant, leak-proof, labeled, and color-coded.

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2. Work practice controls are measures that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed and include:
- i. Prohibiting the recapping, bending, or removing of contaminated needles and other contaminated sharps
 - ii. Maintaining accessible sharps disposal containers as close as possible to the immediate area where sharps are used.

PROCEDURES:

- A. Use universal precautions.
- B. Immediately following use, activate the safety feature on the contaminated needle/syringe and discard into the accessible sharps disposal container.
- C. Sharps disposal containers are maintained and inspected regularly by the Nursing Department to prevent overfilling.
- D. Disposal of the sharps container will be coordinated with the currently contracted medical supply company and in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

DEFINITION:

Universal Precautions: treating all human blood and other potentially infectious material as if known to be infectious for bloodborne pathogens.

REFERENCES:

Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act – www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
Occupational Safety and Health Administration – www.osha.gov

SW:lr

This policy supersedes
#03/11013 dated 03/03/2011.
