



# DISPOSAL OF YOUR MEDICAL WASTE USE OF THE BD SAFE-CLIP NEEDLE CLIPPING & STORAGE DEVICE

Patient Education

## DISPOSAL OF YOUR MEDICAL WASTE

Medical waste includes medications, disposable products (i.e. needles, syringes), as well as items that may contain your body fluids, including blood, urine, and other secretions. We have developed this sheet to help guide you in disposing of your waste properly.

Some disposal regulations vary by state or county. In all cases, if your local requirements are different than these instructions always follow the more stringent of the two. For additional information, contact your home care agency or pharmacy.

## **OPTIONS FOR SAFE DISPOSAL OF YOUR MEDICAL WASTE**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes that on a national scale states, counties, and even towns may have varying guidelines for the disposal of medical waste. The EPA and Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggest the following resources to determine the appropriate means of disposal in your community:

- Call your local refuse/waste/sanitation department or your local health department; the numbers can be found in the phone book government pages or by searching on the internet.
- Visit one of the following websites:
  - The Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal at [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org)
  - The EPA website at [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical)
  - The CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/needledisposal](http://www.cdc.gov/needledisposal)

## **Disposal of “Sharps”**

- The term “sharps” refers to any needles, or other sharp objects that can puncture the skin. These can include “spikes” at the top of intravenous (IV) tubing.
- In an effort to decrease community exposure to needles, the EPA discourages patients from throwing needles in the garbage, flushing needles down the toilet, or placing needles in recycling containers.
- Vital Care provides sharps containers and needle clipping devices at no cost so that our patients can dispose of needles in a safe and proper manner.
  - Any sharp item that has been exposed to blood or other body fluids should be disposed of in a sharps container.
  - IV tubing “spikes” that have been used to infuse medications, but have not been exposed to blood or other body fluids, do not require disposal via a sharps container and may be disposed of with other medical waste.
- To prevent accidental injury, your sharps container or needle clipping device **MUST** be replaced before it becomes full. Always notify the pharmacy when it is one-half to two-thirds full.

## **Disposal of Infusion Supplies**

- Disposable supplies (excluding sharps) that you use for your medication therapy that have not been exposed to blood or other body fluids may be disposed of with other household garbage.
- However, if they have been exposed to blood or other body fluids they may need to be discarded in a special disposal bag or box. Consult with your home care agency or pharmacy for specific instructions.

**See reverse side of form for additional important information.**

## **Disposal of Medications**

- Please follow instructions from our pharmacy for the disposal of unused medications. Typically our pharmacy will not pick up unused medications. Contact your pharmacy for specific instructions.
- You may also contact local community pharmacies and city or county government household trash and recycling services to inquire about medication take-back programs

## **Disposal of Chemotherapy Waste**

- If you are receiving chemotherapy, your medical supplies will need to be disposed of carefully. Many chemotherapy drugs are harmful to the environment or to people if direct contact is made with the skin. You may need to use gloves when handling or disposing of this medication. Please follow your nurse's and pharmacist's instructions on the use of chemotherapy (cytotoxic) sharps containers and disposal bags.
- Keep all unused chemotherapy medications and supplies out of the reach of children and pets.
- Your home care agency may also have specific and important instructions on the handling or disposal of household items such as linens, eating utensils, bedpans, urinals, and emesis basins.

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## **USE OF THE BD SAFE-CLIP NEEDLE CLIPPING & STORAGE DEVICE**

### **OVERVIEW**

- The BD Safe-Clip is a portable disposal system that effectively removes syringe needles for proper destruction. After the device clips the needle from the syringe, the clipper automatically and safely retains the needle making the syringe safe and unusable.
- The device holds up to 1,500 clipped needles and can be used with 28-31 gauge size and 3/16 inch (5 mm) - 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) length needles.
- Factors such as limited vision or use of one's hands (i.e. arthritis; disability; aging) may make the use of the device challenging. If you find it difficult to safely or comfortably insert the needle for clipping, notify the pharmacy so that a traditional sharps container may be sent.
- If your local regulations require a traditional sharps container for the disposal of used syringes regardless of needle clipping, then the use of a needle clipping device does not serve any practical purpose.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEVICE USE**

1. Open the device by squeezing the finger grips located on the smaller end of the device.
2. Locate the silver hole on the side of the device.
3. Keep the device level and fully insert the needle into the hole.
4. Clip the needle by pushing down on thumb depression. After clipping, needles are contained safely inside.
5. The remaining syringe can be discarded. Always comply with your local regulations for safe disposal of medical waste as some require a sharps container for the syringe. For additional instructions on how to dispose of used syringes, refer to the section of this document titled "Options for Safe Disposal of Your Medical Waste".
6. Store your device out of the reach of children and pets.
7. Never use your device to clip someone else's used needles.
8. Always notify the pharmacy when your device becomes one-half to two-thirds full.
9. Some states allow for the disposal of needle clipping devices in household trash while others do not. The Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal ([www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org)) is an excellent resource for such information. For additional instructions on how to dispose of your device, refer to the section of this document titled "Options for Safe Disposal of Your Medical Waste".
10. Never place your device in a recycling bin.

**See reverse side of form for additional important information.**