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|  Needlestick Incidents, Reductions and/or Prevention | NO.  |
| PURPOSE:To provide effective means to reduce the health risk to employees whose duties involve exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material.STATEMENT OF POLICY:It is the policy of this facility to maintain an Exposure Control Plan. This plan shall be reviewed and updated annually and whenever necessary to reflect procedures which affect occupational exposure, revised employee positions with occupational exposure, changes in technology that reduce exposure, and consideration of appropriate, commercially available and effective, safer medical devices. This facility will solicit and document in the Exposure Control Plan, input from employees identified as being at risk for occupational exposure, in the identification, evaluation, and selection of effective engineering and work practice controls. This will include, but is not limited to “Sharps with Engineered Sharps Injury Protections”. The facility will also maintain, in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the employee, a sharps injury log for recording of incidents from contaminated sharps.PROCEDURE:1. Procedure for maintaining the Exposure Control Plan:
2. Annually and whenever necessary, the facility will review and update the OSHA Exposure Control Plan.
3. Employee positions will be evaluated to determine if the position has a potential for occupational exposure and information will be documented.
4. Tasks that are identified as involving exposure, and/or potential exposure to blood or body fluids for each position will be reviewed with the employee and documented.
5. Procedure for consideration and implementation of effective engineering and work practice controls, including safer medical devices. This includes use of “Sharps with Engineered Sharps Injury Protections”.
6. The facility Administrator will consider, and where appropriate, use effective engineering controls, including safer medical devices, in order to reduce the risk of injury from needlesticks and other sharps medical instruments.
7. The facility Administrator/designee will at least annually review newly available medical devices designed to reduce the risk of percutaneous exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
8. Description of the safer devices identified as candidates for use, the method or methods used to evaluate the devices, results of the evaluations, and justification for selection decisions will be documented and updated at least annually. (See attachment # 1)
9. Procedure for soliciting input from employees responsible for direct resident care in the identification, evaluation, and selection of engineering and work practice controls.
10. Methods for soliciting employee input include:
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| 1. Involvement in informal problem solving groups.
2. Participation if safety audits.
3. Participation in worksite inspections.
4. Participation in exposure incident investigations.
5. Participation in analysis of exposure incident data.
6. Participation in evaluation of devices.
7. Involvement in the Safety Committee meeting
8. For employee participation the above must be documented using on of the following methods:
9. Meeting minutes.
10. Copies of documents used to request employee participation.
11. Records of responses received from employees such as an evaluation of a safer medial device.
12. Procedure for recordkeeping, maintaining a sharps injury log:
13. Facility will maintain a sharps injury log to be used as a tool for identifying high risk areas and evaluation devices.
14. The sharps injury log will contain, at a minimum:
15. Type and brand of the device involved in the incident.
16. Location of the incident.
17. Explanation of how the incident occurred. (see attachment # 2)
18. The sharps injury log must be recorded and maintained to protect the privacy of the employee involved in the incident. If data from the log is made available to other parties, all employee identifying information must be withheld.
19. Sharps incidents must be recorded and maintained separately from other work related injuries and illnesses.
20. Procedure for training of facility staff:
21. Nursing and other direct care staff, including staff identified as being at risk for an occupational exposure, will be provided education regarding this policy and procedure to include:
22. Review of the OSHA Exposure Control Plan.
23. Revisions of the Bloodborne Pathogens standard that address the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act.
24. Importance of employee participation in the identification, evaluation, and selection of engineering and work practice controls.

ATTACHMENTS:Safer Medical Device Evaluation FormImplementation and Evaluation of Policy & Procedure; Needlestick Incidents, Reduction and/or PreventionSharps Injury Log |
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