

HIGH RELIABILITY ROUNDING



- Select a rounding focus topic.
- Plan regular time to round with teams.
- Communicate schedule and expectations.
- Connect rounding focus using the 4C model.

Focus Topic:

Sharps Injury Prevention

Core Value



Safety is both Patient Safety AND Workforce Safety. Suffering an injury is NOT part of the job!

- Our goal at St. Luke's is zero preventable harm for our patients and workforce.
- Reducing sharps injuries is essential for ensuring the safety of our teams.
- Skills learned in Universal Skills are helping us get there. Two skills that can be effective in preventing sharps injuries are **Know Why and Comply** and **STAR (Stop, Think, Act, Review)**.

Can Do's



Can your team speak to...

- Common causes of sharps injuries?
- Sharp injury prevention best practices?
- Post-exposure procedures and where to seek help if you experience a sharps injury?
- Proper disposal of sharps?
- Potential consequences of not following sharps injury prevention protocols?

Concerns



Concerns about Sharps Injuries and/or Exposure

- What concerns do you have about sharps injury exposure in your daily duties?
- Do you always have access to properly functioning and not overfilled sharps containers?
- Have you experienced any issues with the activation of safety features on sharps devices?
- How comfortable do you feel reporting a sharps injury or near-miss incident?
- How can the organization support you better in preventing sharps injuries?

Commitment



Can you commit to...

- Sharing recommendations to improve sharp injury prevention?
- Ensuring proper disposal of sharps?
- Can I count on you to follow sharp injury prevention best practices, every time, in the future?

Thank you for your commitment to safety!

****If you identify any system concerns/trends during your rounding, please forward your concerns to Kelli Skelton (Workforce Safety / Sharps Injury Prevention Collaborative Facilitator) at skeltonk@slhs.org.**

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Focus Topic:

Sharps Injury Prevention ANSWER KEY

1. Common causes of sharps injuries:

- Sharps exposure (suturing, needlesticks, scalpels) during procedures.
- Collecting items post-procedure or post-injection.
- Recapping needles after use.
- Failure to activate safety mechanisms on sharps.
- Accidental contact with needle while attempting to activate safety mechanism.
- Using overfilled or malfunctioning sharps containers.
- Staff distracted while handling sharps.
- Patient movement.

2. Recommended sharp injury prevention best practices:

- **Use safety-equipped sharps:** Always choose needles and other sharps that have built-in safety features.
- **Activate the safety guard immediately upon removal, carefully:** After using a sharp, engage the safety guard immediately to reduce the risk of accidental injury.
- **Do not recap needles:** Avoid recapping needles whenever possible. If you must, use the one-handed scoop method to prevent injury.
- **Dispose of used needles immediately after use:** Place used needles in an appropriate sharps container right after use to minimize the risk of injury.
- **Do not use a sharps container that is full or not working:** Ensure that the sharps container is not overfilled and is in proper working condition before using it.

3. Are you aware of the post-exposure procedures and where to seek help if you experience a sharps injury?

- **Immediate Actions:**
 - **Needle stick:** The site should be allowed to bleed slightly, before cleansing with soap and running water. Do not squeeze to cause bleeding. Apply antiseptic and cover with Band-Aid if necessary.
 - **Eye Splash:** The eye should be flushed with water for at least 2 minutes.
 - **Mucous Membranes:** The site should be thoroughly cleansed with water.
 - **Intact Skin:** Skin should be thoroughly cleansed with soap and running water.
- **Reporting:**
 - Report the injury to your supervisor immediately.
 - Complete a SpeakUp Injury/Illness report **AFTER** the exposure evaluation is completed.
- **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):**
 - Refer to IP055xe for PEP guidance. When indicated PEP should be administered as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
 - Follow up with Employee Health for additional guidance and testing.
- **Resources:**
 - Policy IP055xe, Post-Exposure Management, and Follow-Up, available in Compliance 360.
 - Check the Employee Health Source page under Blood & Body Fluid Exposures for further information.

4. How can you ensure proper disposal of sharps?

- Use designated sharps containers that are not overfilled or malfunctioning.
- Dispose of sharps immediately after use to minimize the risk of injury to yourself and others.

5. What are the potential consequences of not following sharps injury prevention protocols?

- Increased risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens such as HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.
- Potential for serious health complications and long-term consequences for healthcare workers.