



Parish Dental Practice Policy: Sharps and Needlestick Injury Management

Policy Statement:

Parish Dental Practice is committed to the safety of its staff and patients by implementing strict guidelines for the handling of sharps and managing needlestick injuries. This policy outlines our approach to prevent sharps-related injuries and ensure appropriate response in case of such incidents.

Objective: To minimize the risk of sharps and needlestick injuries and provide a clear protocol for response and treatment should such injuries occur.

Scope: This policy applies to all employees of Parish Dental Practice who handle or are exposed to needles and other sharps during their duties.

Detailed Procedures:

1. Safe Handling of Sharps:

- Ensure all staff are trained in the safe handling, use, and disposal of sharps.
- Use safety-engineered devices whenever possible and avoid recapping needles.

2. Disposal of Sharps:

- Dispose of sharps immediately after use in clearly marked, puncture-resistant sharps containers.
- Place sharps containers in accessible locations and ensure they are replaced before becoming overfilled.

3. Procedure in Case of a Needlestick Injury:

- Instruct staff to immediately wash the area with soap and water after a needlestick or sharps injury.
- Encourage bleeding of the wound if appropriate, but do not squeeze or apply pressure.

4. Reporting and Assessment:

- Require immediate reporting of any sharps injury to a supervisor or designated health and safety officer.
- Document the incident thoroughly, including details of how and when the injury occurred.

5. Medical Evaluation and Follow-Up:





- Provide prompt medical evaluation and treatment for any staff member who experiences a sharps injury, including assessment for the risk of bloodborne pathogens.
- Offer post-exposure prophylaxis if necessary, in accordance with current medical guidelines.

6. **Training and Education:**

- Conduct regular training sessions on sharps safety, injury prevention, and proper response to injuries.
- Update training material regularly to reflect current best practices and technological advancements.

7. **Preventive Measures:**

- Implement and promote the use of safer alternatives to traditional sharps where feasible.
- Regularly review and update practices and equipment to enhance safety.

8. **Counseling and Support:**

- Provide access to counseling and support for staff affected by needlestick injuries.

9. **Review and Policy Update:**

- Regularly review the effectiveness of the sharps and needlestick injury policy and procedures.
- Make necessary adjustments based on feedback and incident reviews.

Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:

- **Practice Manager:** Responsible for implementing the sharps and needlestick injury policy, ensuring staff training, and maintaining safety standards.
- **Health and Safety Officer:** Manages incident reporting, follow-up actions, and policy updates.
- **All Staff Members:** Expected to adhere to the sharps safety guidelines, report incidents promptly, and participate in training sessions.

This policy aims to ensure that Parish Dental Practice maintains a safe working environment, reduces the risk of sharps injuries, and responds effectively when such incidents occur. Regular training, adherence to safety protocols, and an open culture of reporting are key to the successful implementation of this policy.

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April 1st 2023

Updated Yearly

