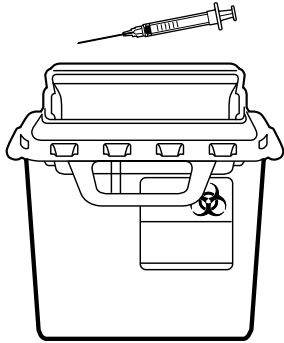


# Sharps Safety



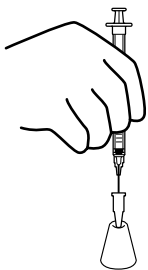
## Needle Disposal

Always dispose of needles and other sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container immediately after use.

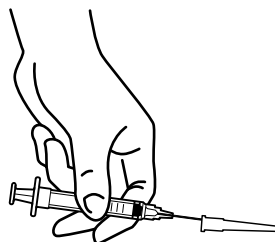


## Avoid Recapping

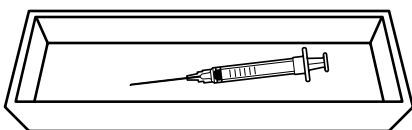
Do not recap needles for disposal whenever possible. If recapping is required for the procedure being done, you must use tongs, a recapping device or one-hand scoop method to recap the needle. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle!



Recapping device



One-hand scoop



Rigid tray

## Why is recapping needles dangerous?

It is extremely dangerous to hold a needle in one hand and attempt to cover it with a small cap held in the other hand because the following might happen:

- The needle could miss the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The needle could pierce the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The poorly fitting cap could slip off a recapped needle and stab the hand holding it.

## How to protect yourself from needle-stick injuries:

- Avoid the use of needles if safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Select, evaluate and use devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlestick injury.
- Avoid recapping needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
- Put uncapped needles in a rigid tray during procedures.
- Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps-disposal containers.
- Report all needle-stick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.
- Substitute plasticware for glass when possible.
- Follow safety guidelines for all sharps hazards (razor blades, scalpels, slides).
- Participate in training.