

Safe Syringe Disposal Program - The New Jersey Hospital Association together with local hospitals offer a program to safely and responsibly dispose of syringes, needles and lancets generated in the home. Participating hospitals offer rigid containers to dispose of these items for a small one time fee to individuals who are injection dependent. (This program does not require needles to be clipped prior to placing them in the container). The container must be returned to the hospital when full for proper disposal and will be exchanged for a new empty container at that time. A list of participating hospitals is provided at the end of this brochure.

Additional information about the Safe Syringe Disposal Program may be obtained by contacting:

New Jersey Hospital Association
760 Alexander Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08543
(609) 275-4058

See End for a List of Participating Hospitals.

Physicians - Ask your physician if she/he will take your used syringes once they are properly placed in a container.

Local Health Departments - Ask the Health Officer of your local health department if there are any syringe disposal facilities in your area. (see <http://nj.gov/health/lh/directory/lhdselectcounty.htm> for a directory of local and county NJ health departments and contact information.)

Household Waste --Follow these steps to safely dispose of your syringes in your municipal trash. Your syringes must be placed in rigid containers that will protect people from needle sticks and use containers that are unlikely to break open on its way to the landfill.

1. Rigid Container -- You may use empty laundry detergent bottles or 2-liter soda 'pop' bottles or other rigid containers with screw-on caps to dispose of needles and syringes. Check with a pharmacy. Ask if it sells commercial containers specially designed to hold sharps for disposal in your household trash.

2. Label/Warning -- Place a large label with a warning on the empty container. **Example: SYRINGES - DO NOT RECYCLE**

3. Needle Clipper -- **Clip the needle.** You can buy an inexpensive hand held needle clipper from the pharmacy. **Using anything other than a clipper to break a needle is not safe.** After clipping the needle, carefully place each of your used needles and syringes into a plastic bottle with a screw-on lid. To the extent practicable, the individual receiving the medical treatment should clip the needle and syringe and place them in the container. In cases where this cannot

be done due to the limitations of that individual, and a family care giver or volunteer must perform this activity, it is recommended that the individual's physician be consulted first.

4. Seal Seal the bottle tightly with its original lid and wrap duct tape over the lid after you fill the bottle with syringes.

5. Disposal You may now dispose of the tightly sealed full container of syringes in your household garbage - **NOT** in your recycling bin. Remember, although you may feel healthy, your used syringes can transmit germs. In addition, loose syringes thrown in your trash can seriously hurt people. We all benefit from the safe disposal of syringes. Please do your part to help keep our environment clean and safe.

For additional information, you may visit the web sites listed below or contact:

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Consumer and Environmental Health Services
Regulated Medical Waste Program
P.O. Box 369
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0369
Telephone: (609) 588-3124
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/phss

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Recovery & Technical Programs
Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
Regulated Medical Waste Program
PO Box 414, 401 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0414
Telephone: (609) 984-6620
E-Mail: dshweb@dep.state.nj.us
www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rrtp/rmw.htm

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2, MAIN OFFICE
290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007-1866
Phone: 212-637-3000
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical/sharps.htm>