

BWC Update

Safety news from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Stick it to sharp object injuries

Sharp objects such as needles, lancets and knives can present great risks to workers in the health care setting. These workers are at risk of exposure to blood or other body fluids that can spread viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. BWC recommends the following control measures to help protect your employees against these hazards:

- Provide safety engineered needles and sharps such as self-retracting needles;
- Use sharps containers to prevent contact with contaminated sharps;
- Properly store knives and sharp objects to protect them from accidental contact;
- Ensure the use of appropriate, well-fitting gloves and protective clothing.

BWC offers a number of resources your company can use to educate workers about hazards on the job, and safety measures that can help them avoid accidents. These include:

- Safety consulting services on hazard assessments and personal protective equipment;
- Online training courses on preventing cuts and lacerations;
- Videos on needlesticks and bloodborne pathogens;
- *Safety Talks* on bloodborne pathogens and preventing cuts and lacerations.

Also keep BWC in mind to help you protect your workers from other common industry safety hazards such as:

- Overexertion from moving residents;
- Slips, trips and falls;
- Getting struck by or striking against objects;
- Chemical exposure.

Employers that have used our safety services in the past have reduced the amount of injury claims in the area of intervention. These preventative measures will go a long way in increasing the safety of your clients, patients and employees.

More information is available about preventing injuries in the healthcare industry by [clicking here](#).

Connect with a BWC safety consultant at 1-866-569-7805 or via email at besafe@ohiobwc.com.