

REMEMBER

- You may use a special container provided by a participating hospital, which is exchanged for an empty container when full, you can use a mail-in system, or you can use your own empty laundry detergent bottle or 2-liter soda bottle or other rigid containers with a secure cap.
- If you use your own bottle, please tape a large label with the warning "USED SYRINGES—DO NOT RECYCLE" on the container. All bottles should have screw-on caps.
- When the bottle has been filled and you are ready to discard it, seal it tightly with its original cap and wrap sturdy tape over the cap for extra security. Bottles can be safely disposed of in your household garbage.
- Never place bottles with used medical waste in the recycling bin! Dispose only with your household garbage. Never flush sharps!

RESOURCES

American Diabetes Association of NJ
Phone: 888-342-2383
www.diabetes.org/home/jsp

American Association of Diabetes Educators
Phone: 800-338-3633
www.aadenet.org

International Diabetes Center
Phone: 888-825-6315
www.parknicollet.com/diabetes

New Jersey Hospital Association
Phone: 609-275-4000
www.njha.com

New Jersey Pharmacist's Association
Phone: 609-275-4246
www.njpharma.org

PHONE NUMBERS

Health Department 737-0120
Med. Center at Princeton . . 497-4266
Capital Health 394-4184
Emergency 9-1-1

SAFE DISPOSAL



TIPS ON HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF HOME GENERATED MEDICAL WASTE

Hopewell Township Health Dept.
201 Wash. Crossing-Pennington Road
Titusville, N. J. 08560
(609) 737-0120

INTRODUCTION

If you use medical supplies at home that must be disposed of after use, you are generating medical waste.

Home generators of medical waste may account for the use of up to 700,000 "sharps" (needles or lancets) daily in New Jersey. Diabetes is the common disease that requires self injection of insulin and lancets to monitor blood sugar levels at home. However, other illnesses or conditions may also result in medical waste that must be safely and hygienically disposed of. This brochure contains information to help Hopewell Valley residents safely dispose of home generated medical waste.

HEALTH HAZARD

The improper disposal of home generated medical waste poses a potential health hazard to many people, including family members, sanitation workers, and neighbors. Although rare, diseases as serious as Hepatitis B and AIDS can result from accidental needle sticks. In addition, loose syringes thrown into your household trash can be misused if they fall into the wrong

hands, and can also injure small children, pets, and wildlife. There are laws governing the improper disposal of syringes or reusable hypodermic needles, and fines of up to \$500 for violations.



IN-HOME HEALTH CARE

Medical waste produced by health care workers such as physicians, nurses, or home health aides providing home health care, is not home generated medical waste. It is Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) as defined in NJAC 7:26-3A, and must be disposed of by a licensed RMW generator in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection RMW regulations.

So remember that if you are being visited at home by a health care worker, the disposal of medical waste generated during those visits is not your responsibility!

FOUR SAFE PLACES FOR SHARPS DISPOSAL

(1) **The University Medical Center at Princeton** is a participating member of an accredited sharps disposal program. Please call (609) 497-4266 for further information.

(2) **Capital Health Systems** is a participating member of an accredited sharps disposal program. Call 394-4184 for further information.

(3) **Mail-In:** If you would prefer to use a mail-in program, check with your health care provider or pharmacist, or search the Yellow Pages or Internet using the key words "*sharps mailback*."

(4) **Home Disposal:** Use a screw-cap container of your own such as an empty detergent bottle or 2-liter soda bottle. Be sure you label the bottle "Used Syringes - Do Not Recycle," tape the cap after the bottle is full, and discard with household garbage.