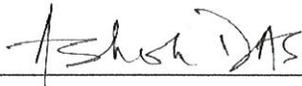


<p>POLICY NUMBER <b>J-620</b></p>	<p>POLICY TITLE: <b>Policy Regarding the Disposal of Sharps</b></p>
	<p>RELATES TO: DISPOSAL OF SHARP ITEMS; APPROPRIATE PUNCTURE-RESISTANT CONTAINERS</p>
<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>May 9, 2018</b></p> <p>NEXT REVIEW DATE: <b>May, 2023</b></p>	<p><u>LICENSED DENTISTS</u></p>



Ashok Das, D.D.S., President



Harry Kamdar, M.B.A., Executive Director

**I. Purpose**

The Ohio State Dental Board (Board) is committed to ensuring the safe practice of dentistry to the public. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Board's position regarding the safe disposal of contaminated sharps used in the dental office.

**Legal Authority**

O.R.C. 4715.03            Board organization-examinations.  
O.A.C. 4715-20-03        Disposal of sharps.

**Education and Training**

None

## **Minimum Practice Requirement**

None

## **II. Applicability**

The policy applies to the practice of dentistry in regards to disposal of sharp items that are contaminated with patient blood and/or saliva that are potentially infective and pose the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission to the public.

## **III. Definitions**

Sharp The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Federal Standard defines a sharp as any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin. All of the following can be put in a sharps container, including but not limited to:

1. Needles
2. Burs
3. Lab Knives
4. Scalpels
5. Broken glass
6. Exposed ends of dental wires
7. Disposable suture sets
8. Disposable biopsy forceps

## **IV. Procedure**

The Ohio State Dental Board refers to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) standards regarding the disposal of sharps.

**Infectious Sharps:** All infectious sharps must be placed in a sharps container. Each sharps container must meet the OSHA standards for sharps containers.

1. All used disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items should be placed in appropriate puncture-resistant containers located close to the area where they are used. When these containers are full and ready for disposal, these containers must be able to be securely closed.
2. Sharps containers must be clearly labeled with a biohazard symbol and clearly labeled as containing contaminated sharps.

**Monthly generation log:** Small generators (50 pounds or less of infectious waste per month) are required to maintain a monthly generation log of the amount of infectious waste generated each calendar month.

## **V. Attachments**

None

## **VI. Monitoring**

The supervisory staff overseeing the daily practices of the procedures contained within this policy shall utilize quality tools and instruments to ensure compliance.

An interdisciplinary team comprised of the Director, Deputy Director, and Policy Committee of the Board, shall meet as needed throughout the year to review policies and procedures and integrate collaborative services. Assigned designees may represent each of these respective disciplines. All policies must be documented as an official review in the policy database on an annual basis.

Each year, the policy design team shall review the quality assurance data and results derived from audit reports, quality tools and instruments, legal or investigatory measures, and interdisciplinary team meeting summaries and/or actions, and incorporate the findings and other improvement recommendations as revisions to the current policies and procedures or develop new policies when necessary.

## **VI. Training**

This revised policy requires staff education or training prior to policy implementation.

## **VII. References**

- O.R.C. 4715.03 Board organization-examinations.
- O.A.C. 4715-20-03 Disposal of sharps.
- Ohio EPA Guidance Document – Small Generators of Infectious Waste
- CDC Guidelines: Sharps Disposal Containers