

Safe Needle Disposal

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Community Needle Disposal



Purpose of Presentation

- Understand the current and future sharps disposal problem in the U.S.
- Recognize that removing needles from the household trash is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders involved: waste, sharps manufacturers, pharmaceutical, retailers/pharmacies, PBMs, insurance companies and patients.
- Introduce you to existing programs and solutions for safe needle disposal

Improper Disposal: Many Forms/Locations



Sharps Outside of Medical Facilities

- 13.5 million people in the US are discarding 7.8 billion used needles outside the traditional healthcare setting
- 1.5 billion injections are illicit drugs users
- Lancets = Over 900 million annually.
- Home users - pen needles and syringes are growing about 11-12% on an annual basis.

Reaction to Needles in Public Waste

- Needles in public waste are of unknown origin
- Needles of unknown origin must be considered as potentially dangerous infectious material
- Needles in public waste create exposure to accidental needle-stick injuries
- Needles discarded by self-injectors have historically been non-regulated by state and federal legislation generators
- Due to increasing visibility of public health safety issue, state and federal legislation is emerging

Solving the Problem

Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal is:

- Gaining attention of industry, public and Federal agencies.
- Development of grass-roots community disposal programs.
- Evolving State and Federal legislation.
- Initiating involvement from pharmaceutical and sharps manufacturers to work together to develop safe disposal solutions.

Proper Disposal: Many Options



- **New Jersey**
- **Florida**
- **Little Rock, AR**
- **California**
- **Massachusetts**

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- Identify states that have included medical waste exemptions for home generated medical waste in medical waste regulation
- Educate and inform general public on current disposal recommendations/solutions available in their community
- Approach USPS to re-evaluate sharps by mail standards and requirements thus reducing mailing costs
- Identify existing needle disposal programs and evaluate the effectiveness of the program
- Track current needle disposal legislation and follow the success of the legislation
- Advocate to industry stakeholders to develop needle disposal solutions for all self-injecting drugs

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal

Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal

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Local Efforts

Committee for Safe Needle Disposal in DC
Metropolitan area

District of Columbia Diabetes Educators

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