

Syringe Distribution and Collection: WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A NEEDLESTICK

Following COMAR 10.52.01.06 Voices of Hope has a protocol for needlestick injury. VOH staff working in the syringe service program will be encouraged to have the Hep A and B series.

1. Immediately **dispose of sharps** safely, if necessary.
2. **Clean the wound** thoroughly with warm water.
 - Do not squeeze a puncture wound- it causes microtrauma and swelling, and does not help.
3. Contact your **Supervisor** immediately to report the incident in full detail.
4. Report to Union Hospital or the closest hospital to your location, make sure to Report the needlestick injury.
5. Complete all necessary **Testing** that the hospital ordered immediately, including all follow up testing that was ordered.
6. If **Medications** are prescribed make sure to complete full prescribed dose and take according to directions.

It is very important to make sure to bring all papers from the hospital to your supervisor and communicate openly the whole process. An incident report must be filled out which is below.