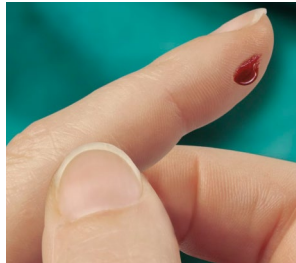


# STOP STICKS!

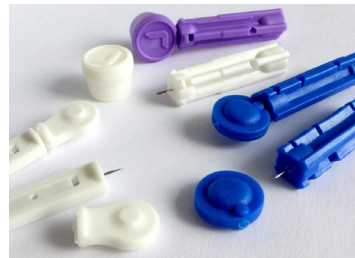
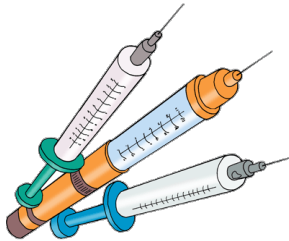
## SHARP SAFETY FACT SHEET

### HOME HEALTH AIDES AND HOMEMAKERS ARE AT RISK FOR BEING INJURED WITH A SHARP



#### WHAT IS A SHARP?

- Sharps are objects that can penetrate a worker's skin such as insulin needles, lancets, and lancing devices.



#### WHAT IS MY RISK FOR GETTING STUCK?

- Home health aides and homemakers work with patients who use sharp devices such as lancets, and needles. There is a possibility of being stuck by a sharp that was used by the patient.
- In one study, an aide is 7 times more likely to be stuck if sharps were observed in the home. Also, an aide is 8 times more likely to be stuck if they help a patient use a sharp.

#### HOW DO INJURIES OCCUR?

- **When** a patient does not dispose of the sharps correctly, by leaving them in laundry, in bags or on tables.
- **When** patients may ask you to help them use a sharp, such as blood sugar testing.
- **When** patients ask you to dispose of their sharps.

#### WHAT CAN I DO?

##### **BE PREPARED!**

- If a patient uses a sharp be prepared to look out for sharps in the home
- Ask your supervisor if there is sharp use by the patient
- Ensure that your work area; kitchen, bedroom or bathroom does not have any sharps lying around
- If a patient asks you to help them use a sharp, **SAY NO** and contact your supervisor
- If a patient asks you to dispose of a sharp, **SAY NO** and contact your supervisor

##### **BE AWARE!**

- Of our policy that aides and home makers may not handle, touch, dispose of or assist patients with sharp use.
- Of crowded or cluttered homes where sharps may not be easily seen
- To report to your supervisor if sharps are present in the home, and if a patient asks you to dispose of or help them with sharp use.