

Alberta Health Services

Safety Sharps FAQ's

5/14/2010

Q: Why is AHS transitioning to Safety Engineered Devices (SED) in all healthcare settings?

A: The provincial government revised the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Code and Regulation to introduce the new requirements for safety-engineered medical sharps. This is a very important initiative towards keeping AHS staff safe on the job.

Q: Who must use Safety Devices?

A: The act applies to all employers who have employees that utilize medical sharps within the healthcare setting. Healthcare settings include but not limited to the following areas:

- Hospitals
- Surgery Centres
- Clinics
- Homecare
- Nursing homes
- Public Health
- Pharmacy
- Diagnostic Areas
- Physician offices

Q: Who chose the SED products that we are transitioning to within AHS?

A: The products have been chosen by provincial sub-committees comprised of clinical members that are product experts.

Q: What is the deadline for the transition completion?

A: The implementation of the SED will be variable depending on the amount of conversion that is required. Some areas have been converted for years. The affected staff will be trained and commodities will be on the supply carts by July 1, 2010.

Q: When will my supply change over to SED products?

A: The in-servicing and cart change out is currently happening within AHS. The goal is to change over carts within seven (7) days of in-servicing within a clinical area.

Q: Who is coordinating education within my clinical area?

A: Clinical transition leads have been appointed for all areas affected. The transition leads will be working with the product representatives to setup in-servicing.

Q: Who decides to grant or deny an exemption request?

A: A waiver process is in place. All submissions will be reviewed by a provincial clinical committee comprised of multiple disciplines.

Q: I use a non-safety sharp product and unsure if this product is available as an SED, who do I contact to find out?

A: All questions regarding products and in-servicing can be emailed to safety.sharps@albertahealthservices.ca

Q: Where can I get more information about SEDs?

A: You will find product information and current updates on the SED transition on Insite. Check it often for updates. If you are still unclear, speak with your manager or send your question to safety.sharps@albertahealthservices.ca