



SENECA COUNTY

Emergency Medical Service



Seneca County Emergency Medical Services Standard Administrative Guideline

Subject: Needlestick Exposure Control Plan

Reference Number: 33

Effective Date: 12-2008

Review Date: 12-2010

Purpose:

To provide a guideline to prevent accidental needlestick injuries.

Background:

The nature of EMS work places the workers in situations where they are exposed to needles in the performance of their duties. In the past needlestick injuries were accepted as unavoidable. The implementation of safety devices is aimed at minimizing the risk of injury and accidental transmission of communicable diseases. Seneca County EMS embraces the new technology and is striving to totally prevent the accidental exposure to communicable disease of its members.

Policy & Procedure

- A. A member is required to report any exposure or accidental needlestick with an unclean needle. An unclean needle is defined as any needle or "sharp" that is contaminated with patient blood or body fluid.

- B. OSHA defines "engineering controls" as using safer medical needles to prevent accidental needlesticks before, during or after a procedure. Required features, include a fixed safety feature that provides a barrier between the hands and the needle after use and allows or requires the worker's hands to remain behind the needle at all times; a safety feature that is an integral part of the device and not an accessory; a safety feature that is in effect before disassembly and remains in effect after disposal to protect users and trash handlers, and for environmental safety; and a safety feature that functions as simply as possible, requiring little or no training to use effectively.

- C. Seneca County EMS is committed to following the OSHA definition. Seneca County EMS will only utilize needles or "sharps" that are designed with engineering controls for safety.

- D. If a member is injured with an unclean needle a BWC First Report of Injury shall be completed and the member should seek treatment immediately at the hospital to where the patient was transported. If no patient was involved the member should seek treatment at the closest appropriate medical facility. Prompt completion of all BWC required paperwork and protocols is important to track the members health and continued treatment.

- E. Any questions should be directed to the EMS office or the Seneca County Commissioners office.

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