

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
EOHSS FACTSHEET

THE NEW JERSEY SAFETY NEEDLE ACT

The NJ Safety Needle Act became law on January 4th, 2000, making it *mandatory* for all NJ healthcare facilities¹ to use needles and other medical devices that have built-in safety features to prevent blood exposures caused by needlesticks. Examples of safety features include self-sheathing needles, blunt suture needles and needleless IV systems.

The highlights of the NJ Safety Needle Act include:

- Evaluation Committee** - An Evaluation Committee must be established to review and evaluate safety needle devices and to determine which devices will be used. Half of the Committee members must be healthcare workers who will use the safety devices.

The Evaluation Committee will develop and implement a procedure for granting waivers for the use of safety products in normal and in emergency situations. Waivers granted on the use of safety needle devices must be reported to the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services.

- Emergency Situations** - During an emergency, a standard device may be used rather than a device with a safety feature if use of the safety device may compromise patient safety. The use of the standard device must be reported to the evaluation committee within 5 days after its use.
- Injury Recordkeeping and Reporting** - The University must record needlestick injuries in its official log of injuries (an OSHA 200 Log) or a needlestick log, including a description of the injury, type and brand name of the needle/sharp involved in the injury. This information must be reported to the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services on a quarterly basis.
- Training** - Education and Training must be provided in the use of selected safety devices.

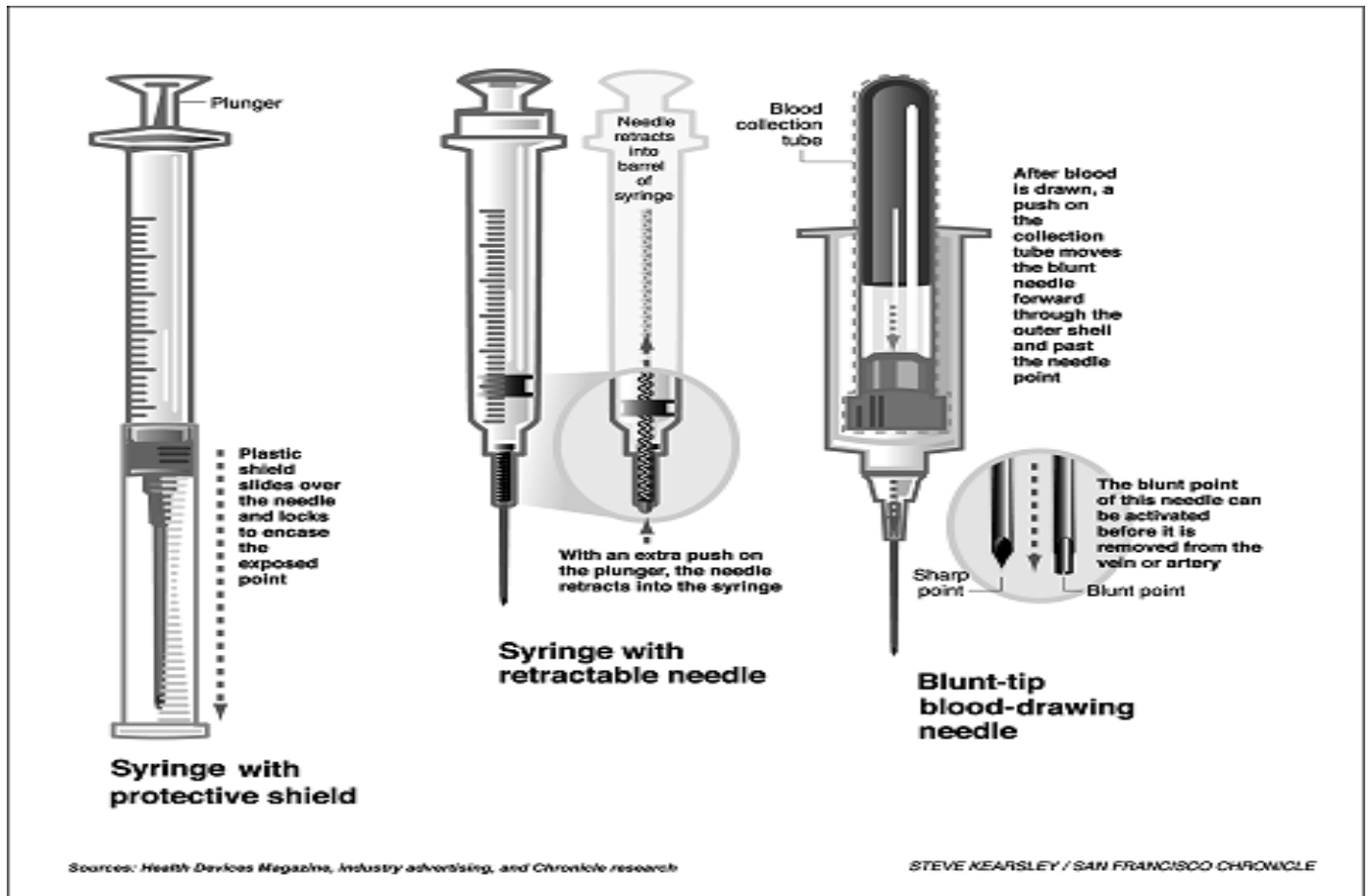
Timeline for Implementation

June 4, 2000: The NJ Dept. of Health will: 1) develop criteria for use by evaluation committees in selecting safe medical devices; 2) develop a form that evaluation committees will use for granting waivers; 3) develop a form that health care facilities will use to report waivers granted & the emergency use of standard medical devices.

January 4, 2001: Health care facilities may use only needles and sharps devices with integrated safety features which have been approved by the EPA. This does not apply to pre-filled syringes.

January 4, 2003: Only pre-filled syringes with integrated safety features which have been approved by the FDA may be used in NJ Health Care facilities.

¹Health Care Facility – licensed pursuant to P.L. 1971 c 136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq)⁰



Three Examples of Syringes with Safety Features

From: NIOSH Alert: Preventing Needlestick Injuries in Health Care Settings, (NIOSH) Publication No 2000-108. A free copy of this publication can be ordered at www.cdc.gov/niosh and can be accessed online at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/2000-108.html?>

Additional on-line resources

1. A full text of the Safe Needle Device Act is available online at <http://www2.umdnj.edu/eohssweb/3546.htm>
2. Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens OSHA Directive CPL 2-2.44D (1999, November 5). PDF Version http://www.osha-slc.gov/OshDoc/Directive_data/CPL_2-2_44D.htm
3. Evaluation of Safety Devices for Preventing Percutaneous Injuries Among Health-Care Workers During Phlebotomy Procedures MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT, CDC, 1/17/97 Vol. 46, No. 2 <http://www2.umdnj.edu/eohssweb/bbp/page11a.htm>
4. FDA medical device safety alerts: <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety.html>
5. Safety Devices Designed to Prevent Injuries During Blood Drawing & Intravenous Catheter Placement <http://www2.umdnj.edu/eohssweb/bbp/page12.htm>