

MEDI-BITS

Medi-Waste Tid Bits

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Needlestick Prevention & Safety

By: Rose Kreller, APRN, MSN

There are an estimated 800,000 needlesticks each year in the United States. More than 20 pathogens have been reportedly transmitted from needlesticks; the most serious being Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Needlestick injuries occur when employees dispose of needles, collect and dispose of material used in patient care, administer injections, draw blood, or handle trash or dirty linens where needles have been inappropriately discarded.

Preventing Needlesticks and Reducing Risk:

- ◆ Use universal precautions, engineering controls (sharps containers) and work practice controls (safe procedures), and wear personal protective equipment.
- ◆ Use safer needle devices and devices with built-in-safety controls.
- ◆ Know how to properly use the devices with safety features.
- ◆ Create a team to investigate needlestick incidents and review sharps injury logs.
- ◆ Evaluate and select appropriate safer needle devices for your facility.

(Continued on reverse.)

Be sure to stop by the Medi-Waste booth at these upcoming conferences.

We would love to connect with you!

- Sept 19—KHEA Conference
- Sept 20-21—KMGMA Conference
- Sept 26-27—KHCA/KCAL Conference
- Oct 11-12—KAASC Conference

***We also plan to attend various events throughout the Spring and Fall of 2019.*

We are happy to announce that MediWaste is now accepting credit cards!

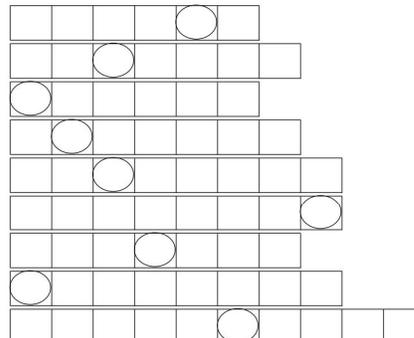
If you would like to set up your account for automatic payments, call our office today at 855-631-6334.

MEDI PUZZLER

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them to discover a Fall friend.
Post a picture or gif of the secret word on our Facebook page to be entered for a drawing!

L A V E E S
 S V R T A E H
 A U M U T N
 E S T W R A E
 A T O L F L O B
 I N K P M S U P
 Y R H I D A E
 R O N C Z M E A
 A I R N C U C O O P



You must be a Facebook follower to be eligible. All answers must be submitted no later than October 15th.

www.facebook.com/MediMidwest

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ 80% of your brain is water.
- ✓ The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades.
- ✓ Banging your head against the wall burns 150 calories per hour.
- ✓ People who laugh are much healthier than those who do not. Studies found that laughing lowers levels of stress hormones and strengthens the immune system.
- ✓ Feet have 500,000 sweat glands and can produce more than a pint of sweat in a day.

Connect with us on Facebook! Facebook.com/MediMidwest

Be sure to give us a  and follow us for your chance to win prizes and join the fun.

Congrats to these recent Facebook Winners!

Meri won \$25 in Lottery Tickets

Jacque won a \$50 Amazon Gift Card

To view past issues of the **Medi-Bits** newsletter, visit the Newsletter Archives page at www.medimidwest.com.



PO Box 416
Manhattan, KS 66505
785-539-MEDI (6334)
855-631-MEDI (6334)

www.medimidwest.com

Needlestick Prevention & Safety—cont.

(Continued from reverse.)

When an Injury Occurs (these are general guidelines):

- ◆ Obtain first aid, wash the wound.
- ◆ Notify supervisor/facility risk manager, etc. as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of your shift.
- ◆ Detailed information will be gathered including the type of injury, source individual (patient the needle was used on), consents to obtain lab studies and information on risk of transmission.
- ◆ Post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations will be made based on the source individual history and lab tests. This may involve specific medications.

Resources:

OSHA Document “How to Prevent Needlestick Injuries: Answers to Some Important Questions”
“Checklist for Sharps Injury Prevention”; International HealthCare Worker Safety Center