

# MEDI-BITS

## Medi-Waste Tid Bits

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### Feature Article—OSHA Standards for Medical Offices

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The mission of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is to save lives, prevent injuries and protect the health of America's workers. OSHA establishes guidelines and standards to promote worker safety and health. The standards apply to all workplaces in America.

OSHA has a brochure entitled: Medical & Dental Offices, A Guide to Compliance with OSHA Standards. The following is a highlight of the standards normally applied to medical and dental offices, whether there are two or two hundred employees. A complete copy of the regulations can be found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

- Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030)
- Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200)
- Exit Routes Standards (29 CFR Subpart E)
- Electrical Standards (Subpart S . Electrical CFR 29 1910.301)
- Ionizing Radiation Standard (29 CFR 1910.1096) If X-ray machines are in use.
- OSHA Poster (Publication 3165) must be displayed by every workplace.
- Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (29 CFR 1904) Medical and dental offices are exempt from some parts of this standard.

Information in this brochure can be found at: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3187/osha3187.html>

The full text of these standards is available at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). Additional resources for employers are also available for purchase or download.

### Effects of Bacteria

Match the bacteria name to the symptom it produces.

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. Clostridium Difficile _____    | 1. Gram + Bacteria, often the cause of skin infections                                  |
| B. Escherichia Coli _____         | 2. Gram - Bacteria, cause of pelvic inflammatory disease and gonorrhea                  |
| C. Helicobacter Pylori _____      | 3. Gram - Bacteria, common in the GI tract and causative of food poisoning              |
| D. Staphylococcus _____           | 4. Spore forming bacteria, causative agent of diarrhea                                  |
| E. Streptococcus Pneumoniae _____ | 5. Gram - Bacteria, common in stomach, can be cause of gastritis                        |
| F. Neisseria Gonorrhoeae _____    | 6. Gram + Bacteria, causes various infection including pneumonia, meningitis, sinusitis |

*For answers to this, and the word search on the reverse, visit the Newsletter Archives on our website at: [www.medimidwest.com](http://www.medimidwest.com)!*

## NEEDLE STICK FACTS

- ◆ The CDC estimates 600,000-800,000 sharps-related injuries per year in healthcare, however only half of those are reported.
- ◆ 46% involve hollow-bore needles; 24% involve suture needles.
- ◆ 48% of incidents occur during use of the device; 40% occur during the disposal process.
- ◆ 99.7% of needle stick/cut exposures to HIV-contaminated blood **DO NOT** lead to transmission of the infection.
- ◆ The CDC estimates that 60% of sharps injuries can be prevented by using safer devices.

## MEDI PUZZLER

I N L A M E R E T S O P D N N  
 L A C I R T C E L E X I T E O  
 N O I T A C I N U M M O C G I  
 T F B G B J L N A D P Q A O T  
 G N I T R O P E R I V Z H H A  
 B L O O D B O R N E L F S T I  
 I O N I Z I N G N G T P O A D  
 T D M D R A D N A T S U M P A  
 R E C O R D I N G M X D O O R  
 E I U O S H H A Z A R D H R C

BLOODBORNE  
 COMMUNICATION  
 COMPLIANCE  
 ELECTRICAL  
 EXIT  
 HAZARD  
 IONIZING  
 OSHA  
 PATHOGEN  
 POSTER  
 RADIATION  
 RECORDING  
 REPORTING  
 ROUTE  
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## Guidelines for Storing & Transporting Regulated Medical Waste

- ⇒ Segregate pathology and trace chemotherapy wastes
- ⇒ Use a solidifier/absorbent when liquids are present
- ⇒ There should be **no leaking fluids** in the containers
- ⇒ Be aware of **weight limits** noted on the containers (**22lbs and 45lbs**)
- ⇒ Double bag if there are rips or tears
- ⇒ Be sure **red bags are closed**, preferable with a single knot
- ⇒ **Corrugated boxes must be taped** at bottom
- ⇒ Lock sharps containers and close plastic/cardboard containers properly