



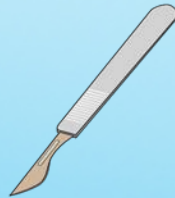
We know children.

## Sharp Safety

Children's Hospital &  
Medical Center  
Surgical Services

## Sharps - Definition

- Definition: any needles, syringes with needles, scalpels, blades, broken ampules or other articles that could cause wounds or punctures to personnel handling them
- Must be discarded into special containers without risk to disposal personnel



# Risks of Sharp Exposure

- Transmission of blood borne pathogens to someone injured by the sharp
- Between 600,000 and 800,000 sharp injuries occur among healthcare workers annually according to OSHA



## Sharps that frequently cause injury

- Hypodermic needles
- Blood collection needles
- Suture needles
- Needles used in IV delivery systems
- Glass capillary tubes
- Used disposable razors



# Procedures linked to Injuries



We know children.

- Drawing blood
- IM injections
- IV access
- Suturing
- Handling laundry
- Collecting filled sharps containers
- And more

# Safety Zone

- Most operating rooms employ a neutral zone. This is an area where the scrub and surgeon place sharps to minimize the passing of sharps between individuals
- The orange neutral zone pictured is placed on the mayo stand during surgery
- When placing a sharp object down please state “sharp down” to make everyone at the surgical field aware





# Safe Practices

- Avoid recapping, bending or breaking needles and sharps
- Use a one hand technique if medical procedure requires recapping
- Place used sharps immediately into puncture-resistant containers
- Carry sealed specimen containers in an outer container
- Avoid touching contaminated broken glass with bare hands



## Summary

- Use devices with safety features
  - Know how to use them!
- *Never* recap needles
- *Always* dispose of used and contaminated sharps immediately in the proper container
- Be *aware* of hazards of non-needle sharps:
  - Broken glass, scalpels, blades, etc.
- Report all sharp related injuries

