

Leamington Mennonite Home  
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>CATEGORY:</b> Health & Safety	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Safe Handling of Sharps	<b>SECTION:</b> C <b>POLICY:</b> 4
<b>DATE:</b> July 12, 2022	<b>Administrator's Signature:</b> <u>J. M. L.</u>	
<b>REVISION DATES:</b> October 2023	<b>IPAC Lead's Signature:</b> <u>L. Coppola, RN.</u>	

**SAFE HANDLING OF SHARPS**

**POLICY:**

Sharps shall be handled and disposed of in a manner that will prevent injury and the spread of infection to the user and others.

**PROCEDURE:**

The Director of Nursing & Personal Care will:

- 1) Ensure that sharps disposal containers are available for:
  - Glucometer lancets
  - Scalpel blades
  - Discarded vials and ampoules
  - Other blades
  - Razors
  - All syringes and needles

The following considerations should be taken:

- Sharps disposal containers must be readily available in all areas.
- Sharps must be discarded immediately after use, directly into a disposal container at the point of use.
- Sharps must not be recapped after use; prior to disposal, deposit directly into a disposal container.
- Never bend or break needles after use.
- Do not disassemble needles from syringes or other devices; always dispose of as a single unit.
- IV tubing should be placed directly into a sharps disposal container without cutting it.
- Scalpel blades must be removed using forceps.
- Never fill a sharps container more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- Never use force to place an item into a sharps container.
- Do not attempt to retrieve an item from a sharps container.
- Never leave a sharp protruding from the sharps container.

- When the sharps container is full, the cap should be snapped shut and stored in the first-floor med room. Staff will be notified prior to the collection of full sharps containers by SteriCycle
- PSW's to dispose of razors in the appropriate labeled bucket in the tub rooms following each use.