



## Needlestick/Sharps Protocols

Should you suffer a needlestick/sharps or any blood/body fluid exposure, immediately notify your preceptor. Do not be embarrassed, and **DO NOT WAIT**. Drug prophylaxis following a high-risk exposure is time sensitive. Seek immediate help.

### **Immediate care of the body site:**

1. Needlesticks/sharps and cuts: scrub out and immediately clean the wound/contaminated exposure site with liberal amounts of soap and water.
2. Splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin: decontaminated by vigorous flushing with water.
3. Splashes to the eyes: irrigated with copious amounts of clean water, saline, or sterile irrigant.

If the facility has not already taken your blood, then they will need to do so before you are released from the facility. Once you have been released from the facility, you are under no obligation to return to have your blood drawn. **You will need to take blood samples with you to the laboratory.**

Note: the patient's name, hospital number, attending physician, and location. This will help determine the level of exposure from the source patient and aid in deciding prophylactic treatment.

Follow all facility protocols, including reporting of the incident to the facility's Employee Health Service (if applicable). Once facility protocols have been met, you must contact the Program Director, Julie Hamrick, immediately, and complete the **Accident Injury Report** along with all required paperwork. **A claim must also be reported at Great American Insurance Group [Report a Claim - Specialty Property & Casualty - Great American Insurance Group](#)**. This is a time-sensitive task that must be completed on the **same day, with no exceptions**.

### **As soon as possible following accident/injury/exposure/needlestick/sharps:**

- Students should seek medical care at the nearest Wellness Mart or their primary care provider; an emergency room visit is usually not necessary.
  - Medical attention may include:
    - Needlesticks/sharps and cuts: scrub out and immediately clean the wound/contaminated exposure site with liberal amounts of soap and water.
    - Splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin: decontaminated by vigorous flushing with water.
    - Splashes to the eyes: irrigated with copious amounts of clean water, saline, or sterile irrigant.
    - Obtaining the student's and the patient's blood for testing.
    - Receiving advice regarding follow-up treatment and testing.

- If the student has personal health insurance, please provide it to the Lab/provider. Once an insurance claim is made, they will be in contact with the student to arrange payment for any invoices/bills.
- If students do not have health insurance, they will provide the institution with any bills for the insurance claim.
- For services/treatment beyond the initial visit, the student will be responsible.

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**Ms. Julie Hamrick, Program Director**  
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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SVSTI Official Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_