Sharps Injuries: Inevitable or Preventable

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Why is sharps safety important?

- 500,000 health care workers injured each year
- Injuries associated with occupational transmission of HBV, HCV, & HIV
- 132 documented cases of health care provider to patient transmission of HBV, HCV, or HIV

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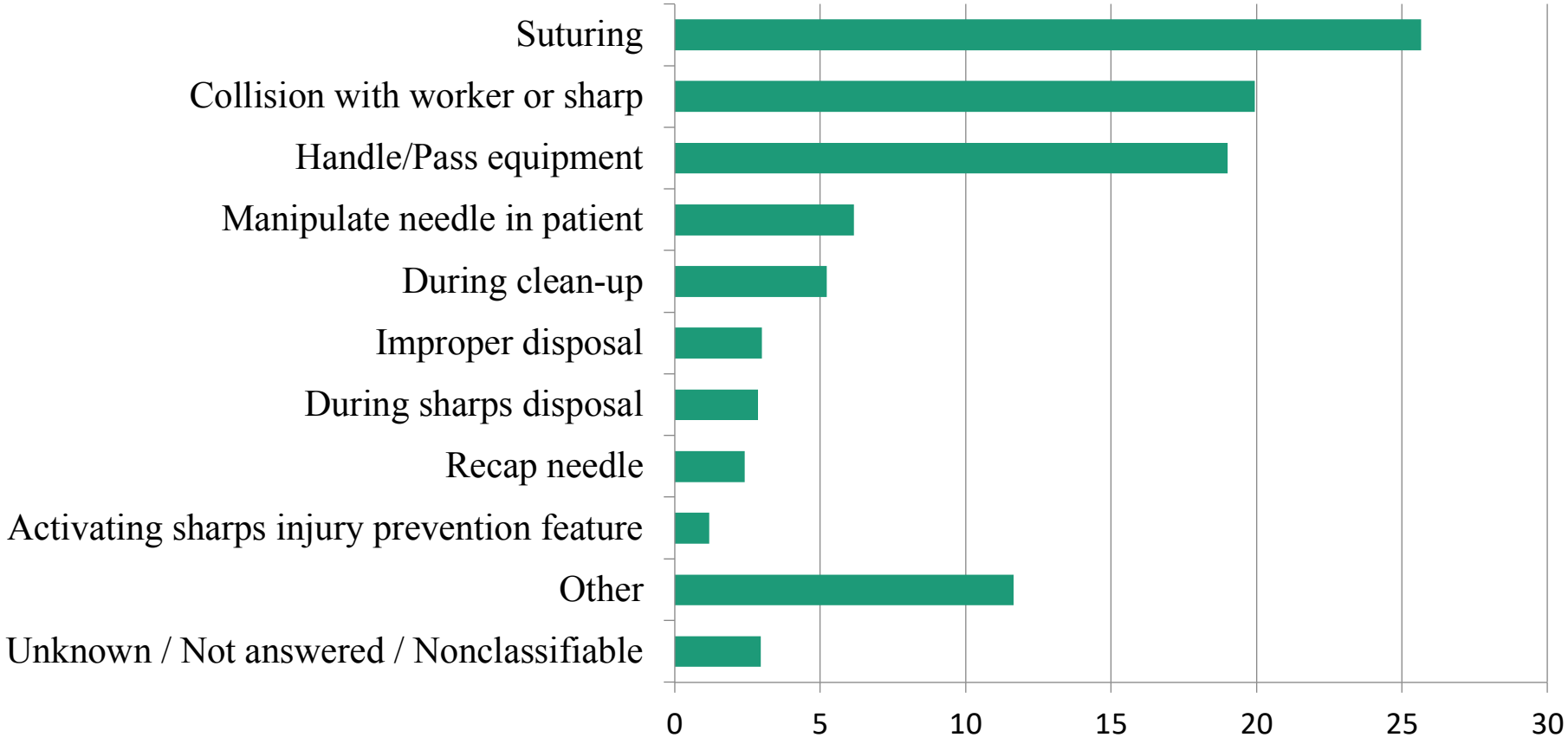
Distribution of sharps injuries among Massachusetts hospital workers by how the injury occurred, 2010-2015



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OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen Standard

29CFR 1910.1030

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Needlestick Safety & Prevention Act of 2000

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act was established on November 6, 2000 and was the work of Safe Needles Save Lives, a campaign launched by the American Nurses Association. The Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act represented a revolutionary change for healthcare workers in the U.S. because it meant the government was now involved in their safety.

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The Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act requires employers to:

- Identify, evaluate and implement safer medical devices
- Maintain a sharps injury log
- Involve healthcare workers in deciding which devices are used.
- Implement engineering controls for sharps disposal containers, self-sheathing needles, safer medical devices like sharps with engineered injury protections and needleless systems, and requires that these engineering controls be used to eliminate or lessen employee exposure to bloodborne pathogens
- Train employees in the proper usage of the engineering and work practice controls to help keep them safe

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Hierarchy of Controls

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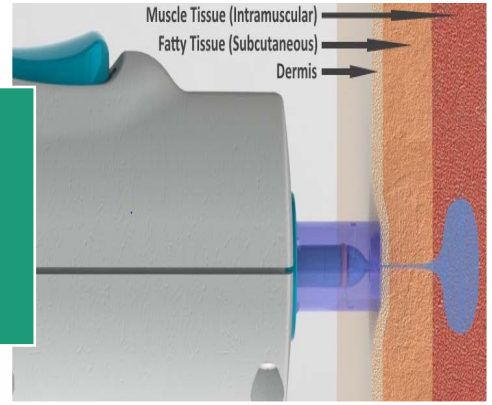
Hazard Elimination

Needleless connectors

Needle-free injectors



Alternative cutting devices

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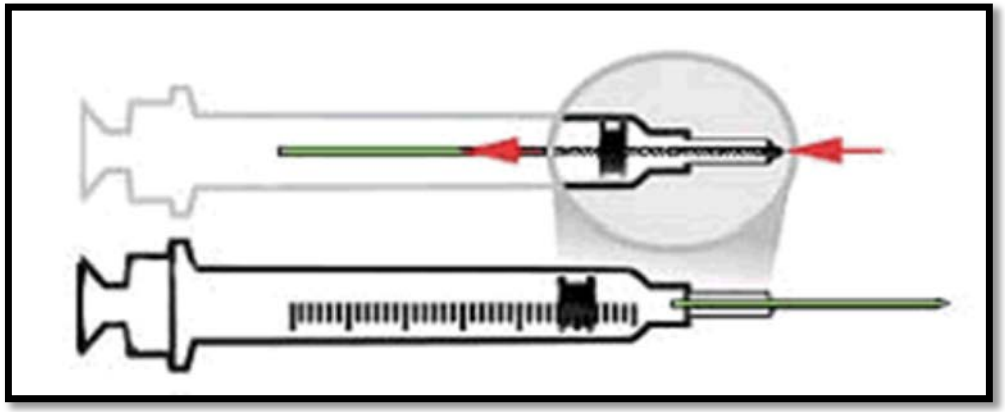
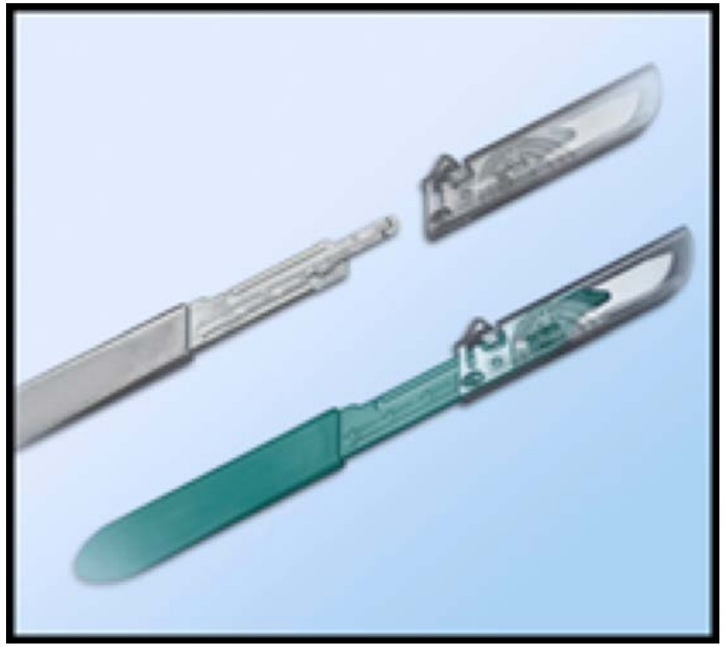
Engineering Controls

Safety needles & syringes



Safety Scalpels



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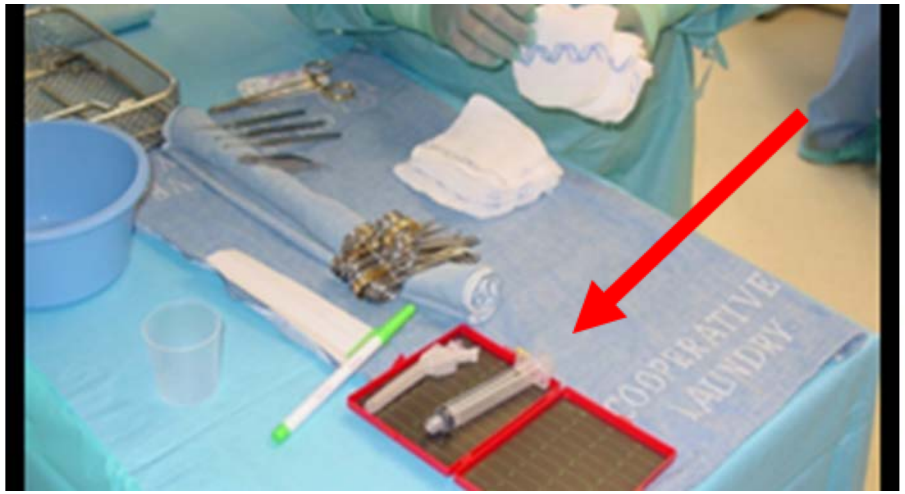
Work Practice Controls



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Administrative Controls

Exposure control plan

Policies & procedures

Education & competency

Documentation

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Personal Protective Equipment

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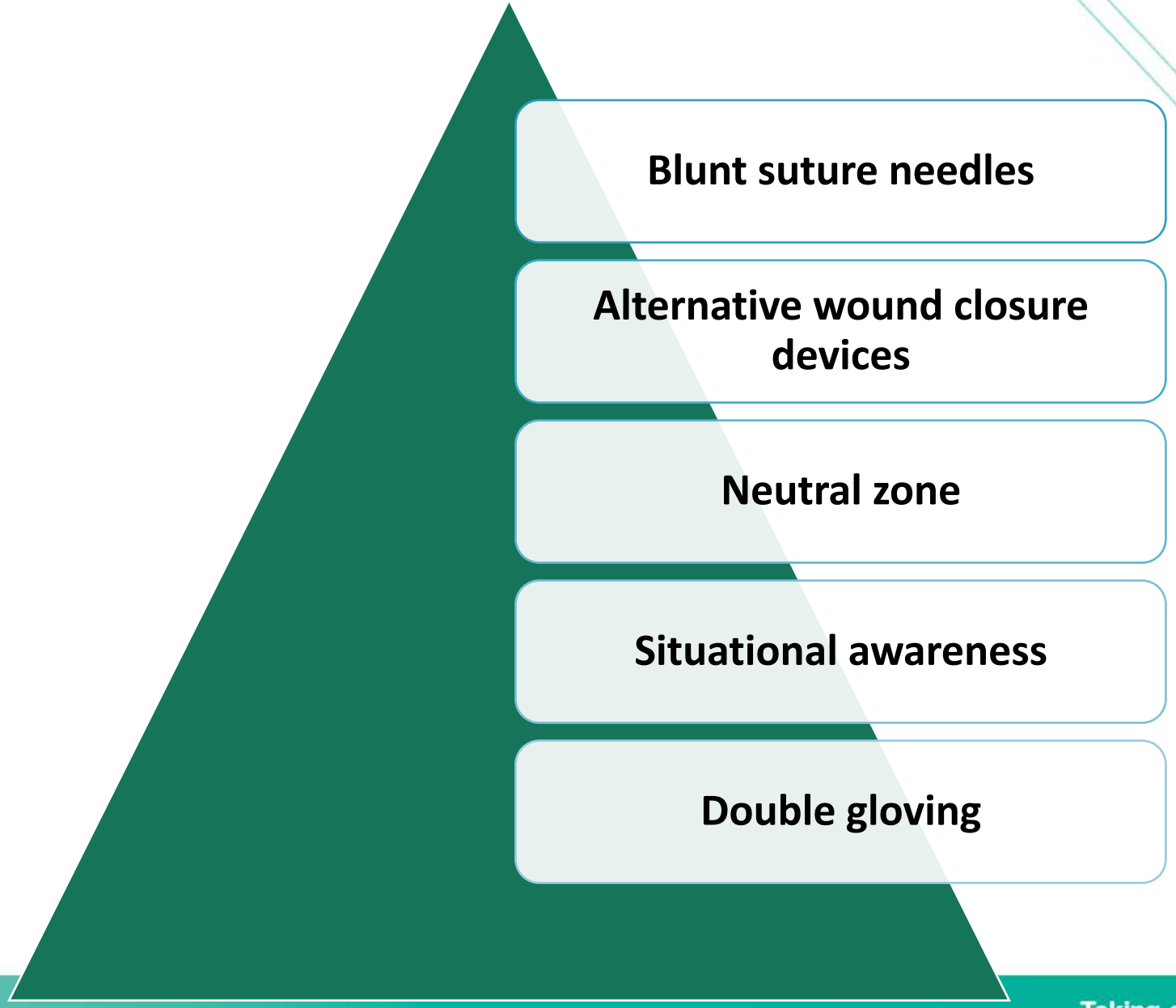
Strategies to Reduce Risks



Safety Features

- Simple
- Reliable
- Clear
- Easily understood

Product Evaluation & Selection

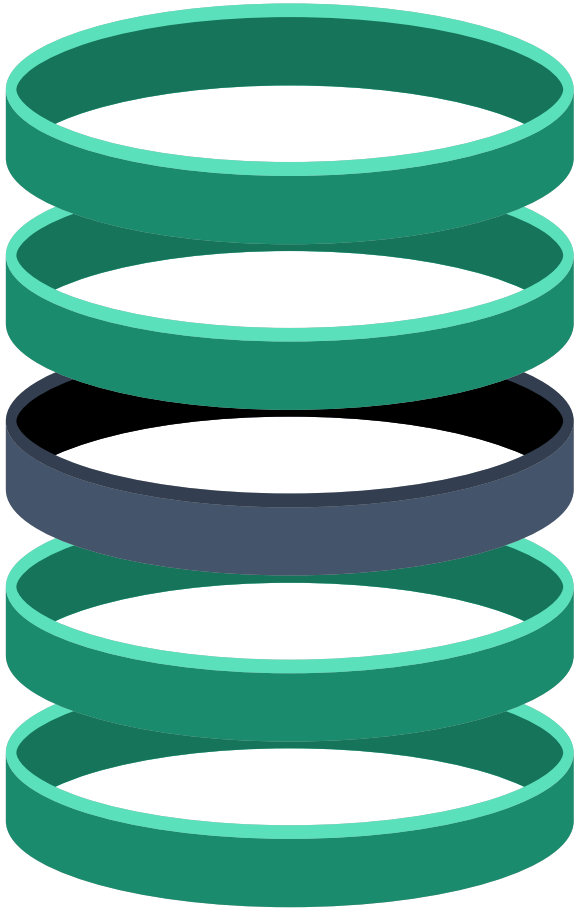
- Frontline workers
- Multidisciplinary team
- Priorities
- Reducing sharps injuries

Selection Criteria

Patient safety

Worker safety

Efficiency



User acceptance

Overall performance

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Safety Design

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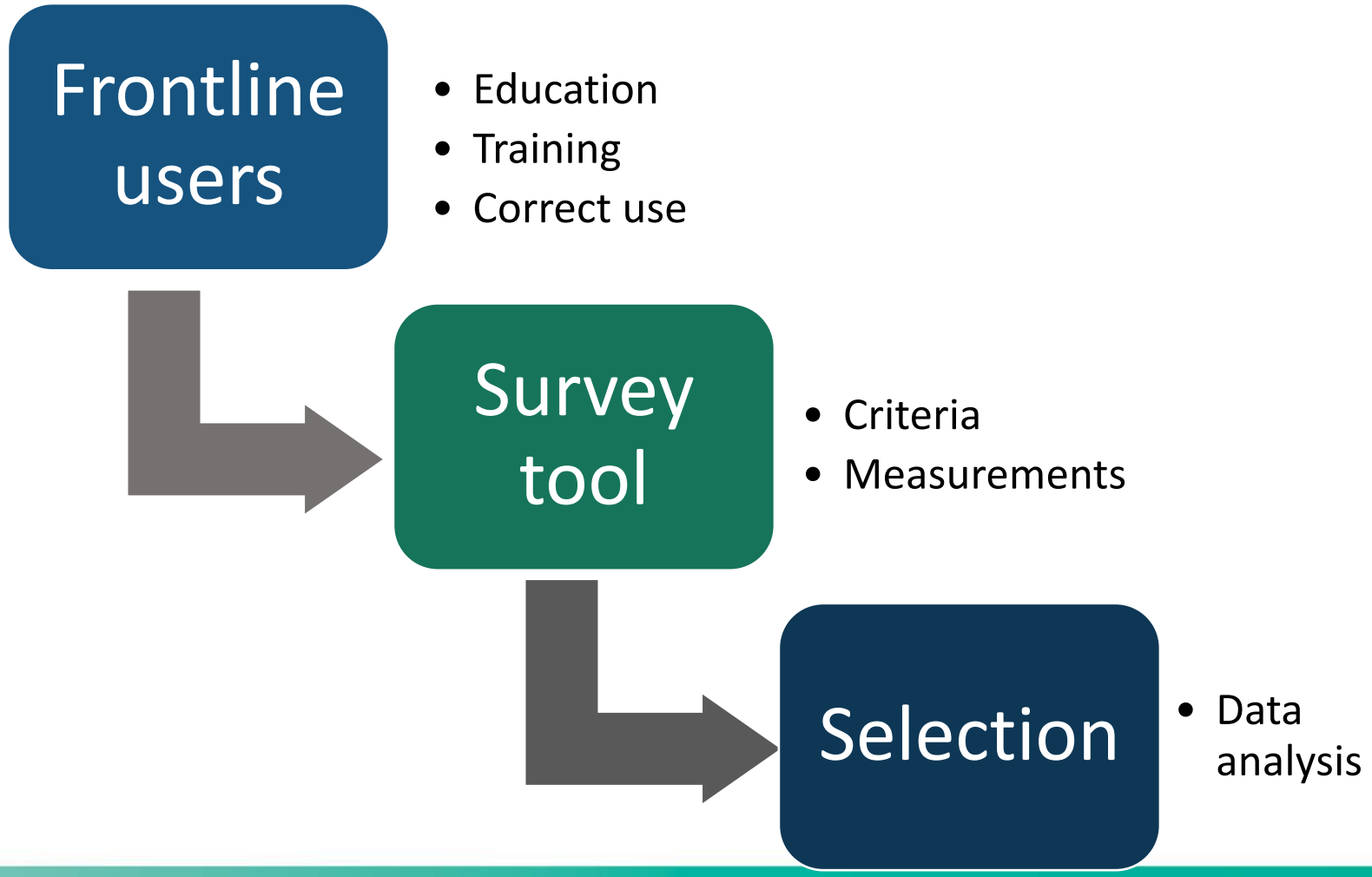
Product selection



Cost analysis

Cost of the product

Potential cost savings

Education & training costs

Assessment


Acceptance
Correct usage
Performance
Injury rates
Usage rate

Efficacy of current devices

- Reducing injuries
- Preventing injuries

New device evaluation

- Persistent sharps injuries

Obstacles

Availability of conventional sharps

Lack of empowerment

Lack of support

Training

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Obstacles

Budget

Lack of management support

Lack of safety culture

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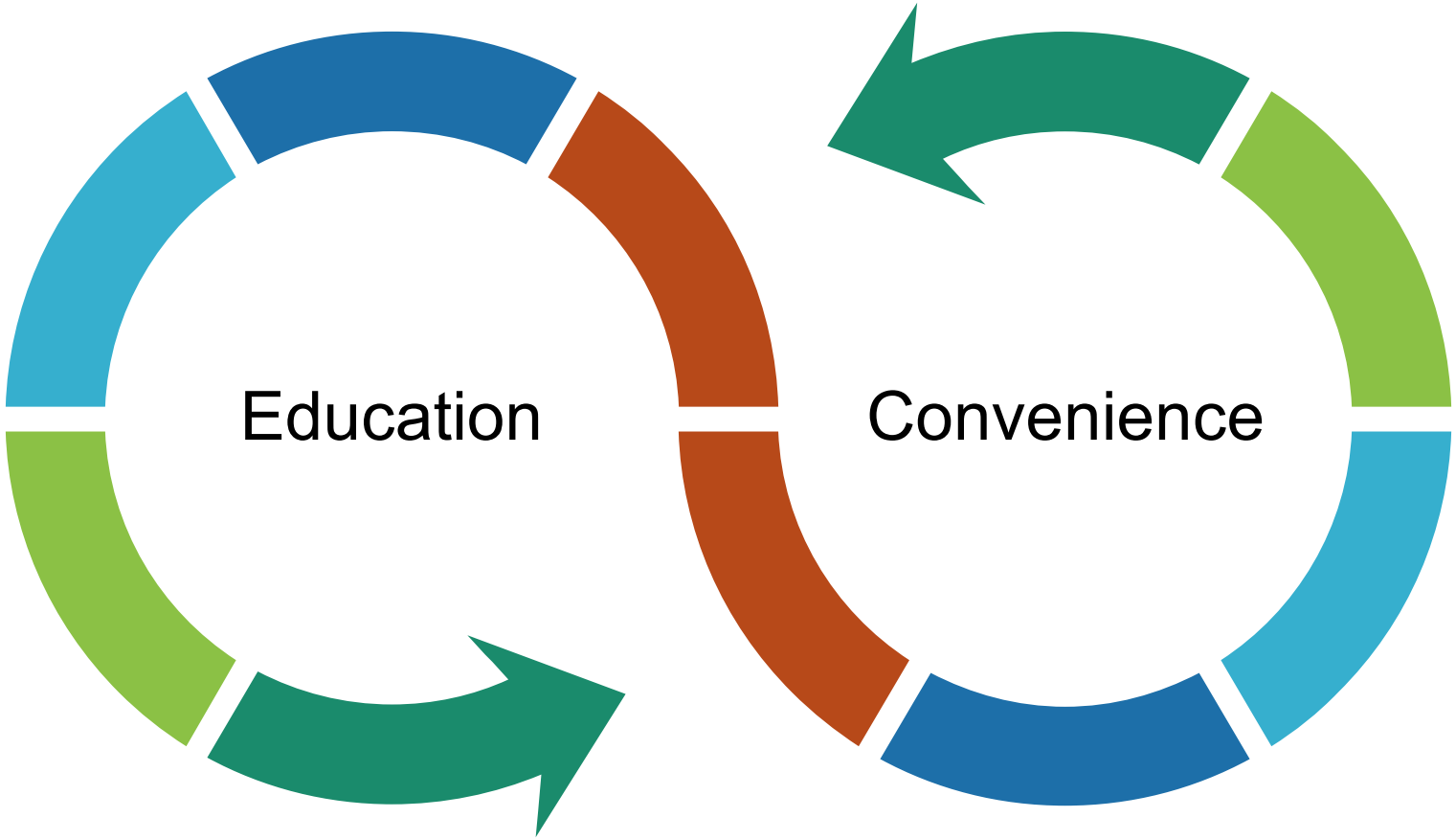
Under-reporting of injuries

Perceived low risk

Lack of time; inconvenient

Fear of reprisal

Increasing Reporting



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Culture of Safety

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Creating a Culture of Safety

- Patient & worker safety
- Worker participation
- Availability of safety devices, PPE
- Influence of group norms
- Socialization of new hires

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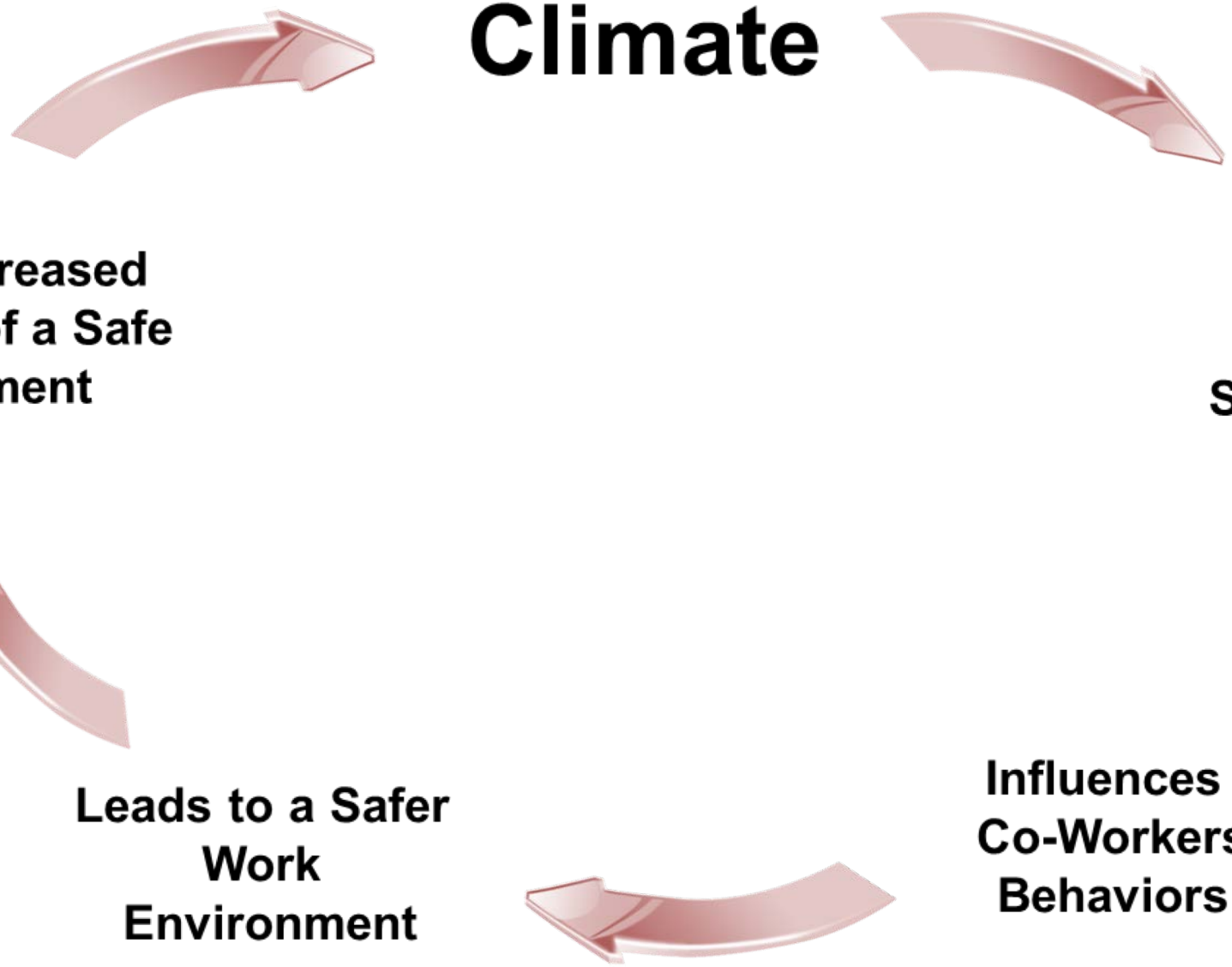
Safety Climate



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Resources

OSHA

NIOSH

AORN

ANA

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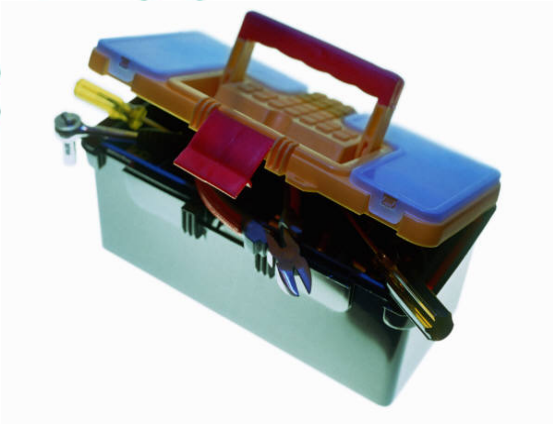
AORN Sharps Safety Tool Kit



- Educational power points
- Implementation plan
- Evaluation of sharps safety devices
- Evidence-based Posters
- Analysis of sharps injuries
- List of online resources
- Sharps safety poster “how to”
- Frequently Asked Questions

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References

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13. Weiss ES, Makary MA, Wang T, et al. Prevalence of blood-borne pathogens in an urban, university-based general surgical practice. *Ann Surg*. 2005;241(5): 803-7; discussion 807-9.

Resources

1. ANA Sharps Injury Prevention
   http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/WorkplaceSafety/Healthy-Work-Environment/SafeNeedles/

2. AORN Sharps Safety Tool Kit
   https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/tool-kits/sharps-safety-tool-kit

3. OSHA Healthcare Wide Hazards Needlestick/Sharps Injuries
   https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/sharps/sharps.html

4. NIOSH STOP STICKS CAMPAIGN
   https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/stopsticks/sharpsinjuries.html

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