General Information
Sharps are required for many tasks in research and diagnostic settings; therefore, we are unable to eliminate them from the workplace. It is important to understand how to work safely with sharps to prevent injuries or illnesses.

Needles
- Never recap traditional needles.
  - Purchase and use safety needles or safety syringes when possible.
- Do not remove needle from the syringe, dispose of both as one unit.
  - Containers should be puncture and leak-proof with a sealed, limited-access lid to prevent spills or accidental contact.
  - If needles are potentially contaminated with biological hazards, the disposal container should be labeled accordingly.
- Appropriate PPE (nitrile or latex gloves) should be worn if contents may contain biological or chemical hazards.

Broken Glass
- Use tongs or other tools to pick up broken glass.
  - If glass must be picked up by hand, use gloves that provide adequate protection from lacerations.
- Place broken glass in the yellow “Broken Glass” buckets or other EH&S approved and labeled container.
  - Broken glass should never be placed in regular garbage.
- Follow Safety Data Sheet (SDS) recommendations for additional PPE that may be required in the event of a chemical spill.

Scalpels and Blades
- Use appropriate tools to replace blades instead of your hands.
- Cap or cover blades when not in use.
- Replace dull blades regularly to ensure sharp tools are being used.
- Place used sharps in an appropriate container labeled “Sharps”.
  - Containers should be puncture and leak-proof with a sealed, limited-access lid to prevent spills or accidental contact.