



## **SHARPS SAFETY**

### **07.16.14**

- ❖ To avoid the risk of needle sticks, please follow the instructions below:
  - ✓ **Non-compliant non approved “used needle” containers**
    - When a patient comes to the Lab with a Non-compliant Non-approved sharps container – **do not touch the container**.
    - Escort the patient to a large biohazard container in the lab and have the patient place their container in it.
  - ✓ **Approved Sharps Containers**
    - ***Before you touch the container***, ask the patient if the container is properly closed and that there are no needles sticking out of the container.
    - To verify that information, ask the patient to turn the container around, so that you can see that there are no needles sticking out.
  - ✓ Under no circumstances – should you empty the container and return it to the patient or allow the patient to empty the container and re-use it.
  - ✓ Emptying used needles from any approved or non-approved container is an OSHA violation.
  - ✓ If a sharps container is left on our premises:
    - **Do not pick up the container.**
    - Obtain a large sharps container and lay it down or place near the "patient's sharps container" and push it into the large sharps container with tongue blades or a pair of forceps or a pair of scissors.
    - **Never use your hands to push the container into the large sharps container.**

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