Lab Appendix A: Sharps and Biohazards - Safety Lancets and Finger Sticks

Sharps - Handling & Disposal

- Sharps are medical instruments that are used to puncture the skin (safety lancets*, lancets, needles, and blades)

- Dispose of sharps **immediately** in a hard red plastic sharps container!

- Do **NOT** dispose of sharps in a red biohazard bag

*Although safety lancets have retractable needles, they are still a safety hazard and must be disposed of in a sharps container.

Biohazard Bags - Handling & Disposal

- Bandages, used cotton and gauze, test strips, and gloves with body fluids on them are non-sharps biohazardous waste

- Dispose of non-sharps biohazardous waste in a red biohazard bag

- Wear gloves when handling biohazard bags

Safety Lancets

- Safety lancets have retractable needles or blades
- Are available with
    - Contact activation or
    - Triggered release
- Color coded by depth of penetration and gauge
    - Grey 1.8mm 23-Guage Low Flow 10-20
    - Orange 2.2mm 22-Guage Med Flow 20-40 ul
    - Pink 2.8mm 21-Guage Med-High Flow 40-60 ul
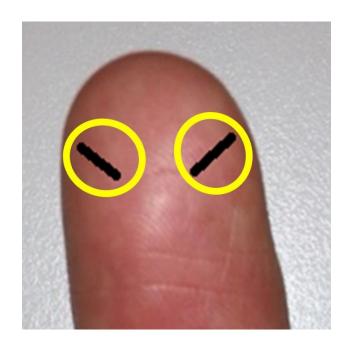

Surgilance ® Safety Lancets

Where to Stick

Choose

- Non-dominant hand
- Inside the circles
- Black lines show lancet position

Best NOT to stick

- On the tip
- In the center
- Too far to the sides

Cleaning the Finger

- Use one firm swipe with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton ball)
    - Do not rub the alcohol wipe (or cotton ball) on the same area over and over again
- Let alcohol air dry – don't blow or fan
    - If alcohol is wet, the stick might sting
    - The sample should not be contaminated with alcohol
- Discard the alcohol wipe or cotton ball in a **biohazard bag**

Performing the Finger Stick

- Remove protective cap from the safety lancet

- Place red raised platform end of safety lancet on the test site

- Gently push the safety lancet down against test site to activate the safety lancet mechanism

- Once used, discard the safety lancet* into a **sharps container**

*Although safety lancets have retractable needles, they are still a safety hazard and must be disposed of in a sharps container.