

Sharpsmart:

Size and Location: Impact on Sharps Injuries

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“Compared to small portable Sharps Containers, use of the larger, safety-engineered Sharpsmart mounted on patient room walls can result in significantly fewer staff sustaining disposal-related SI annually. The Sharpsmart collectors’ volume, large aperture, passive overfill protection, one-hand deposit and close-at-hand siting are postulated as contributing to the reduction in disposal-related Sharps Injuries” - Authors

What was the study?

A 350-bed Sydney hospital was experiencing excessive Container-Associated Sharps Injuries (SI) with their use of a small disposable sharps container.

The study **‘A 6-year, 3-phase study comparing use of a small patient-room sharps disposal container with a larger engineered container’** examined the impact of converting from a small patient room disposable sharps container to the Sharpsmart reusable collector.

Phase 1: Disposable 1.4Litre containers were carried to/from patient rooms.

Phase 2: 32Litre reusable Sharpsmart collectors were mounted in med-rooms with sharps carried to/from patient rooms in dishes.

Phase 3: Sharpsmarts were wall-mounted in patient rooms.

What were the results?

Phase 1: (Non-Sharpsmart disposable containers)

- 19.4% of SI were container-related

Phase 2: (Sharpsmarts in Med rooms)

- Container-Associated SI fell 94.9%
- Disposal related SI fell 71.1%
- Transport injuries rose

Phase 3: (Sharpsmarts in patient rooms)

- Container-Associated SI were zero
- Disposal-related SI fell 83.1%
- Recapping SI fell 85.1%.

What does this mean for you?

The study validates the necessity of the international recommendations that sharps be placed immediately after use into safety engineered sharps collectors located close to the point of sharps generation.

Use of patient-room Sharpsmarts can significantly reduce Sharps Injuries.

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