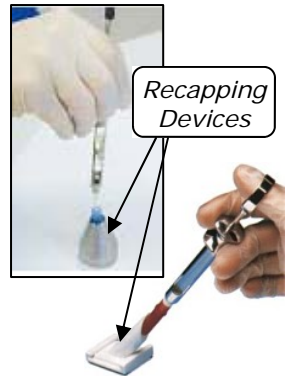


## Sharps Safety

### Always:



Always dispose of needles and other sharps in a rigid, puncture resistant container immediately after use.



### Never:



Do not recap needles for disposal.

- If recapping is required for the procedure being done, you must use tongs, a recapping device or one-hand scoop method to recap needle. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle!

One Hand Scoop



### **Why is recapping needles dangerous?**

It is extremely dangerous to hold a needle in one hand and attempt to cover it with a small cap held in the other hand!

- The needle can miss the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The needle can pierce the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The poorly fitting cap can slip off a recapped needle and stab the hand holding it.

### **How can I protect myself from needlestick injuries?**

- Avoid the use of needles if safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Select, evaluate and use devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlestick injury.
- Avoid recapping needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
  - Put uncapped needles in rigid tray during procedure.
  - Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps disposal container.
  - Report all needlestick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.
  - Substitute plasticware for glass when possible.
- Follow safety guidelines for all sharps hazards (razor blades, scalpels, slides).
- Participate in training.

