

# Important Facts on Needlestick Injuries

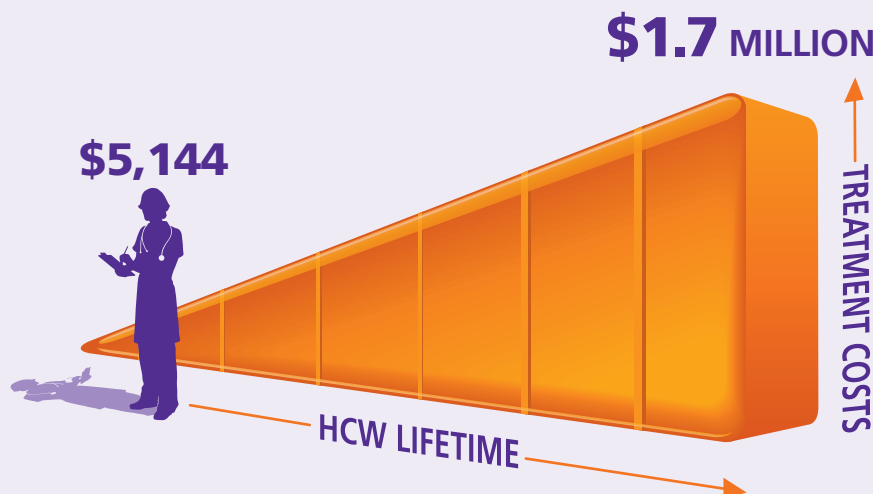
## Understanding the Risk

- An estimated 61% of needlestick injuries occur after use and before disposal.<sup>1</sup>
- Accidental needlestick injuries account for 86% of all occupationally related infectious disease transmission.<sup>2</sup>
- The risk of becoming infected with **hepatitis B (HBV)** from a needlestick is as high as **30%**, **hepatitis C (HCV)** is as high as **7%**, and **HIV** is **0.3%**<sup>3</sup>

## Calculating the Cost

**In addition to personal worry and pain on the part of the healthcare provider, needlestick accidents represent significant financial cost to employers:**

- One high-risk accidental needlestick injury costs on average \$5,144<sup>4</sup>
- The lifetime cost of treating a single seropositive employee can be upwards of \$1.7 million (HCV seroconversion requiring a liver transplant)<sup>4</sup>
- OSHA fines are \$11,340 per incident for non-compliance with the activation of safety devices<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept of Health and Human Services. Evaluation of safety devices for preventing percutaneous injuries among health-care workers during phlebotomy procedures – Minneapolis – St Paul, New York City, and San Francisco, 1993-1995, MMWR. 1997; 46:21-25

<sup>2</sup> ICN on Preventing NSI

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Health and Human Services. Updated U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of Occupational Exposures to HBV, HCV, and HIV and Recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis. MMWR. 2001;50(RR11):1-42.

<sup>4</sup> Frost & Sullivan Economic Model, Version 3.1, 2007

<sup>5</sup> Sandel Medical Industries, LLC. Safe handling of sharps: what you need to know about OSHA, JCAHO and CDC regulations and standards...and how to analyze the real cost of those injuries. Available at [www.sandelmedical.com/sharps.pdf](http://www.sandelmedical.com/sharps.pdf)



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