The unfinished story

Healthcare worker safety

BD

We are BD

BD is a global medical technology company that is *advancing the world of health* by improving medical discovery, diagnostics and the delivery of care. We work in close collaboration with customers and partners, helping to:

- Improve outcomes
- Lower healthcare delivery costs
- Increase efficiencies
- Improve healthcare safety
- Expand access to health

Needlestick injuries remain a serious threat

The European Parliament described needlestick injuries as...

"One of the most serious health and safety threats in European workplaces"[1].

In 2013, the EU Directive on the Prevention of Sharps Injuries in the Hospital and Healthcare Sector became legally binding[2]. Hospitals now have a duty to:

- Achieve the **safest possible** working environment
- **Prevent** workers' injuries caused by all medical sharps – including **needlesticks**
- **Protect** workers at risk

However, legislation is only half of the story. Needlestick injuries (NSIs) are still happening every day and continue to pose a threat due to non-compliance[3], failure to use safety engineered devices[3] and ignorance of the risks of infectious disease[4].

Needlestick injuries: What you need to know

1 million
Needlestick injuries are estimated to occur in Europe each year[1]

More than 30
Dangerous pathogens[5] can be present in human blood, including hepatitis B, C and HIV[6]

1 in 6
Nurses, physicians and medical students report repeated injuries[3]

37%
Estimated proportion of HBV infections in healthcare workers attributable to occupational exposure[7]

The problem could be bigger than you think

Under-reporting is common[8,9], with a range of factors preventing healthcare workers from reporting needlestick injuries, including:

- Lack of **time, routine** or a **robust system** for reporting[3,10,11,12,13]
- Lack of **clarity** and **information** about reporting[5]
- Inadequate **knowledge** or **understanding** of infection risks[3,11]
- **Fear** of embarrassment or a punitive response[12]

The impact of needlestick injuries can be far reaching

Needlestick injuries are unpleasant and they put your employees at unnecessary risk.

They can also affect the emotional wellbeing of your staff and put significant strain on your budget.

Emotional impact

The fear of needlestick injuries can be severe and long-lasting[10]

Waiting for test results and taking prophylactic treatments can result in months of anxiety and stress for healthcare workers[14]

The average wait time for test results following injury[14]

Financial impact

€500-1600+
The estimated direct cost of needlestick injuries per incident[3]

Litigation costs
With additional indirect costs, injuries present a very real financial burden

$75 million
Data from a systematic review (2016) of economic studies suggested this could be the total cost of needlestick injuries in Italy alone[6]

It’s time to complete the picture and finish the story

Needlestick injuries remain a serious threat, but there are solutions available that can significantly reduce your risk. We recommend using our three-step process to determine the risks inherent in your department, implement new devices and ensure that your teams are trained to use them appropriately.

The BD three-step process

STEP ONE: Recognise the risks

Risk assessment is a vital first step.
BD can provide you with a tool that helps you to:

- Identify harm
- Assess risk
- Develop recommendations

STEP TWO: Introduce safety-engineered devices

The use of safety-engineered devices has been proven to prevent needlestick injuries, particularly when used in conjunction with specific training.

93% Reduction in needlestick injuries when safety devices were used. Education and training were key factors[15]

75% Decrease in reported needlestick injuries. Safety devices probably the most important factor[17]

80% The percentage of injuries that could have 'probably' or 'definitely' been prevented by safety devices[18]

BD safety-engineered devices

BD provides superior quality safety-engineered devices that can help to reduce needlestick injuries and improve clinical performance, thereby lowering the overall cost of operations. Our broad portfolio of products covers a wide range of clinical applications, including the following:

Safety in blood collection

BD Vacutainer® Eclipse™ Signal™ Blood Collection Needle with Integrated Holder

BD Vacutainer® *UltraTouch™* Push Button Blood Collection Set

Safety in peripheral vascular access

BD Venflon™ Pro Safety IV Cannula

BD Nexiva™ Closed IV Catheter System

Safety in injection preparation and administration

BD™ Blunt Fill and BD™ Blunt Filter Needles

BD Eclipse™ with SmartSlip™ Technology

BD AutoShield® Duo

BD can help you selecting the most appropriate safety engineered devices to meet your clinical needs and transform safety within your organisation. Our highly skilled professionals can work with you to develop a bespoke implementation plan.

STEP THREE: Educate and train

BD can partner with you to develop safety training and education programmes that go beyond safety-engineered device training.

Training
We can provide expert help and best-practice training in safety and everyday clinical applications, such as effective injection, blood collection and vascular access techniques

Investment
We continue to invest in the development of high-quality educational tools, materials and training programmes

E-learning
Our e-learning programmes offer around-the-clock training

Let's complete the picture and finish the story

Nurses and other healthcare workers who are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of patients should be protected from harm at work. We can empower you to make the changes that will protect your teams from the risks associated with needlestick injuries.

Building upon more than a century of expertise and innovation, BD is committed to supporting you on your journey to a safer working environment – one that protects all healthcare workers, while ensuring that you comply with the relevant standards, guidelines and directives.

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