

California Sharps Coalition

- The **California Sharps Coalition** was founded in 2001 as the Alameda County Sharps Coalition in response to increasing use of home generated sharps and their disposal into the waste stream.
- We are proud to be an initiative begun and still supported by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson. By 2009, the Coalition grew from a one-County sponsored initiative to a full Statewide coalition.
- Since most sharps are discarded into the public solid waste stream posing the risk of injury and infection to anyone who encounters them, the Coalition boasts a diverse membership; we are a collaboration of businesses, community groups, non-profit organizations and government. **Together, the Coalition promotes public awareness and solutions for safe disposal of needles, syringes, and other sharps in the community.**

Sharps Usage

Some facts about sharps usage:

- In California more than 486,000 individuals who self inject insulin daily with more than 355 million home generated sharps each year that need to be properly disposed of.
- Approximately 3% of the U.S. population self-injects; this means approximately 8% of homes in the U.S. include people who self-inject some type of medication.
- Translated this means 8-9 million Americans use sharps to manage their medical conditions at home. *
- More than 3 billion disposable needles and syringes and 900 million lancets are used in the U.S. each year outside of health care facilities. **
- More than 90% of these used sharps generated in the home are disposed of in the household trash. ***
- Besides diabetes, other reasons to self-inject include: hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV AIDS, multiple sclerosis, infertility, migraines, allergies, hemophilia, medications for pets, and even illegal drug users.

Risks:

- When sharps are disposed of improperly - tossed in the trash or placed in plastic containers and then thrown away - they can cause physical injury. These injuries can lead to the transmission of infectious diseases, which may result in death.

* U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency, *Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal*, available at <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/medical/med-govt.pdf>.

***Id.* at 1; see also Prod. Stewardship Inst., *PSO Medical Sharps – Product Stewardship Initiative*, available at <http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/assets/pdf/productstewardship-0808.pdf>

*** Suz Redfearn, *Taking a Pointed Risk: Safer Home Needle Disposal Sought*, Wash. Post, Aug. 20, 2002, at HE01, available at http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/assets/pdf/wp_article.pdf.

Recent History of “Sharps” Legislation in CA

- SB 1362 (chaptered & enrolled, 2004)

HHzW sites can accept sharps.

- SB 1305 (chaptered & enrolled, 2006)

Needle ban in solid waste & recycling.

- AB 501 (chaptered but vetoed, 2008)

Required drug manufacturers of pre-filled pen devices to provide containers for safe disposal.

- SB 486 (chaptered & enrolled, 2009)

Required drug manufacturers to submit plans outlining what (if anything) they do to help their customers safely dispose of their home injected products.

- SB 419 (introduced, 2011)

Would amend current regulations requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers who sell or distribute medication that is self-injected to submit their SB 486 plans in an electronic format and have manufacturers post and maintain a copy of their plan on their website.

SB 486 Evaluation Team



Diabetes
Educational
Services



California Conference
of Directors of
Environmental Health



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
Northern California
Chapter



California Sharps Coalition

Senate Bill 486 Evaluation Team CONSUMER REPORT CARD



Abbott Laboratories 92 A-

Amgen 62 D-

Amylin 22 F

Baxter 2 F

Bayer 21 F

Biogen Idec 22 F

Bristol Meyers Squibb 75 C

Johnson & Johnson (Centocor-
Ortho Biotech) 93 A-

CSL Behring 2 F

Eisai 46 F

Eli Lilly 23 F

EMD Serono/Gonal-f 65 D

EMD Serono/ Other 68 C

Ferring 17 F

GlaxoSmithKline 49 F

InterMune 20 F

Merck & Co. 32 F

Pfizer 35 F

Roche/Genentech 73 C

Sanofi-Aventis 36 F

Teva Biologics 18 F

Teva Neuroscience 22 F

Next Steps

- **Legislation:** Senate Bill 419
- **Membership:** Continued Growth
- **Expansion:** Sharing ideas with other advocates nationally

Join Us!

Become a member of the
California Sharps Coalition
today!

A health initiative sponsored by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson

BY CONTACTING:

Lara Sim, Chair

1221 Oak St. Ste 536, Oakland, CA 94612

(415) 948-5674 phone

info@sharpscoaliton.org email