

Sharps Container Exchange Proposal

To: Gary Rillema, Kelley Eager, and Steve Thomas

From: Amy Gamett

CC: Geri Rackow and Richard Horne

Date: 5/7/2012

Background

Sharps may be used at home, at work, and while traveling to manage the medical conditions of people or their pets. These medical conditions include allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, infertility, migraines, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, blood clotting disorders, and psoriasis.

There are about 9 million Americans who use needles or other sharps to manage their medical conditions at home. This amounts to more than 3 billion used needles and other sharps that must be disposed of outside health care settings each year. Used needles and other sharps are dangerous to people and pets if not disposed of safely because they can injure people and spread infections that cause serious health conditions.

Idaho

The state of Idaho currently allows patients to place used needles/pen needles, lancets (sharps) in a household container such as a laundry detergent bottle, bleach bottle or other plastic container with a screw-top lid. When that container is full, you place it in your regular garbage – not recycling. Though this is still approved in Idaho it is the least desirable way to dispose of used sharps.

Proposal

The Sharps Container exchange proposal would allow safe in home collection of sharps and their disposal at any EIPHD office for a minimal fee.

- Individuals would bring their sharps containers to the health district office nearest for a handling and disposal fee of:
 - \$10.00-for a large container
 - \$7.00-for a small container
- EIPHD has an agreement with our current sharps disposal vender to pick up containers as needed.