

NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION

PRODUCERS AND VETERINARIANS

Needlestick injuries are usually minor, but they can be serious.

Most common injuries

- Skin infections
- Allergic reactions
- Deep tissue wounds that require surgery

Less common injuries

- Miscarriages due to hormone products
- Serious cardiovascular events (Micotil/tilmicosin)
- Suppression or coma from sedatives like xylazine
- Systemic infections
- Allergic reactions to antibiotics

How Common are Needlestick Injuries?

Needlestick injury research shows that over **80% of farm workers** and **73% of swine veterinarians** working in animal agriculture have accidentally stuck themselves. Vaccines are the most common type of product involved in needlestick injuries.

IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION PROGRAM

Employee Practices

- Slow down - don't rush with injections
- Restrain animals properly
 - » Get help from coworkers
 - » Use the correct equipment and techniques
- Don't put needle caps in your mouth
- Discard bend needles - don't use or straighten
- Don't carry needles/syringes in your pockets
- Use approved sharps containers
- Don't remove needles from sharps container
- Don't recap needles
- Report all needlestick injuries to management
- Contact your healthcare provider

Management Practices

- Train employees about
 - » Safe needle handling
 - » Safe injection procedures
 - » Type of drugs used
- Routinely re-train employees to reinforce safety procedures
- Provide safe animal handling equipment; ensure proper staffing
- Provide readily accessible sharps container for safe needle disposal
- Provide needle/syringes with protective devices, such as retractable needles or hinged syringe caps
- Remind employees to use caution when using products of concern
- Pregnant employees should not inject hormones
- Encourage employees not to rush
- Encourage employees to report injuries
- Employee should contact a healthcare provider

Products of Most Concern

Tilmicosin (Micotil®)

Sedatives (e.g. Xylazine)

Oil-based adjuvants

Brucella abortus Strain RB51 vaccine

Modified live vaccines (e.g. Erysipelas vaccine)

Johne's vaccine

Hormones - especially if pregnant

Antibiotics - especially if allergic

MORE INFORMATION:

www.porkgateway.org/FileLibrary/PIGLibrary/Factsheets/a6672v1-O.pdf

www.cdc.gov/niosh/stopsticks/sharpsinjuries.html



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