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

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

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.

More Information:
www.porkgateway.org/FileLibrary/PIGLibrary/Factsheets/a6672v1-0.pdf
www.cdc.gov/niosh/stopsticks/sharpsinjuries.html