

OR Sharps Safety Checklist

Personal protective equipment

- Protective eyewear (eg, goggles, mask with face shield)
- Protective facemasks (ie, surgical masks, surgical N95 respirator, helmet)
- Gown resistant to blood and body fluid penetration
- Impervious footwear/shoe covers
- Double gloves

Work practice controls

- Surgeon/ Assistant: Right-handed _____ Left-handed _____
- Neutral zone selected and deployed
- Procedure plan for sharps management (eg, unusual shaped & sized trocars and pins)
- Alternative cutting methods (eg, blunt electrosurgery device, laser) when appropriate
- Scalpels with safety features (eg, disposable, retracting-blade, shielded blade scalpels,) used
- Appropriate retractors (eg, mechanical retraction devices, blunt retractors)
- Elimination of unnecessary sharp instrumentation (eg, towel clips, retractors)
- No touch techniques used
- Situational awareness: knowing and communicating location of sharps
- Alternative wound closure methods when appropriate (eg, blunt-tip suture needles, stapling devices, adhesive strips, tissue adhesives)

Sharps management and disposal devices

- Sharps/needle counter
- Needle capping devices
- Scalpel blade removers
- Sharps disposal container (puncture resistant, leak proof, prevents over-filling, change indicator, and readily accessible)

* Adapted with permission from: Davis MS. Advance Precautions for Today's OR. *Sweinbinder Publications LLC. Atlanta, Georgia. 1999.*

Recommended practices for sharps safety. In: *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices*. Denver, CO: AORN, Inc; 2014:351-374.

Recommended practices for surgical attire. In: *Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices*. Denver, CO: AORN, Inc; 2014:49-60.