

Developed by Mark S. Davis, MD msdavismd@aol.com www.orprecautions.com
(Should be modified to conform to your institution's established safety policies)

(From: Hospital CEO and surgery chair)

(To: All staff surgeons, *mailed to home addresses*)

(Re: Operating Room Personnel Safety Policy)

Dear Dr _____,

Please take a moment to look around your home at the things you value most: your spouse, your children, and everything else that you have worked so hard for.

How would you feel if you were unable to continue in your chosen profession as a result of a chronic illness that you acquired in the OR as a result of a needlestick or other sharps injury? What would your home look like then?

Your teammates in the OR—our valued employees—and their families face the same risks that you do, every day on the job. And that is why, for your protection as well as theirs, we have an Operating Room Personnel Safety Policy, incorporating safety devices and safety techniques that have been shown to minimize the risk of exposure to blood. This policy is also necessary to ensure that our hospital is in compliance with state and federal OSHA regulations.

Our policy requires the use of the following, where clinically appropriate: blunt tipped suture needles for closing fascia and muscle in incisions (and other soft tissues, as you see fit), a neutral zone for passing sharps between personnel, safety scalpels, and effective personal protective equipment.

Our shared goal is a zero incidence of sharps injuries and exposures to blood and body fluids, but we cannot approach our goal without your expertise. We therefore solicit your valued input on how we may continuously improve the safety climate at our hospital going forward.

Our employees are our most precious resource. We want to keep them, and you, safe! We thank you, for making their safety, as well as your own, a top priority at our hospital. Finally, please remember that your compliance with the Operating Room Personnel Safety Policy is one of the requirements for staff admitting privileges.

Sincerely,

John Q. Administrator, CEO

Abel Cutter, MD, Chair, Department of Surgery

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