



PSI MEDICAL SHARPS PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

What is the Problem?

It is estimated that over 3 billion disposable needles and syringes and an additional 900 million lancets (collectively called "medical sharps") are used outside of the healthcare setting in the U.S. each year. Most of these enter the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream. A roughly estimated two-thirds of these are used by those managing their own (or their pet's) health care at home by injecting medication (primarily for the treatment of diabetes), while the remainder are used by injection drug users. As self-injection of medications becomes an increasingly popular mechanism for drug delivery, the number of home medical sharps is expected to increase significantly. Self-injectors are known to discard medical sharps in trash containers in homes and public places and in other public settings such as hotel rooms, airports, and toilets. These disposal methods create the potential for injury or the transmission of infectious diseases to homeowners, sanitation workers, sewage treatment plant operators, and waste management personnel at transfer stations, recycling facilities, and disposal facilities. Medical sharps are a potential hazard for hospitality workers when left at restaurants, hotels, airports, and other public locations. In addition, since people dispose of needles almost everywhere, sharps can pose a hazard to the general public.

Who is Involved?

PSI has identified over 175 stakeholders interested in medical sharps. We share information with these stakeholders and invite them to participate in PSI's Medical Sharps National Dialogue. Dialogue participants include:

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| ⇒ American Association of Diabetes Educators | ⇒ Owen-Mumford |
| ⇒ Becton Dickinson and Co. | ⇒ Sanofi-Aventis |
| ⇒ California Product Stewardship Council | ⇒ Sharps Compliance, Inc. |
| ⇒ Can-Am Care, LLC | ⇒ Stericycle |
| ⇒ Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal | ⇒ Terumo Medical |
| ⇒ GlaxoSmithKline | ⇒ UltiMed, Inc. |
| ⇒ Hoffman La-Roche, Inc. | ⇒ Waste Management |
| ⇒ Novo Nordisk | |

States with participating state agency and local government representatives:

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| ⇒ California | ⇒ Massachusetts |
| ⇒ Florida | ⇒ New Hampshire |
| ⇒ Indiana | ⇒ New York |

What is the Project Goal and Focus?

The primary **goal** of the project is to develop a national consensus for a financially sustainable system that will maximize the safe disposal of waste sharps. This project will **focus** on sharps generated outside the health care setting, including households, hotels, casinos, restaurants, airports, and farms.

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Product stewardship directs all participants in the lifecycle of a product to take responsibility for reducing the impacts to the environment and human health caused by the production, use, and end-of-life management of that product.

PSI

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national environmental institute with membership from 45 states, over 70 local governments, and over 45 businesses, and (environmental) organizations that establishes cooperative agreements to reduce the health and environmental impacts from consumer products. We work with state and local government agencies to partner with waste firms, manufacturers, retailers, environmental groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders. The mission of PSI is to pursue initiatives to ensure that all those involved in the lifecycle of a product share responsibility for reducing its health and environmental impacts.

What is the Process for the National Dialogue on Medical Sharps?

Action Plan Development January - May 2008	Action Plan	<p>The Product Stewardship Action Plan on Medical Sharps set the stage for four face-to-face stakeholder meetings by identifying the problem, project goals, key issues, and potential solutions for the development of a nationally coordinated system for the safe disposal of medical sharps in the community. This briefing document was based on interviews with over 30 stakeholders and other research. Development of the Action Plan was funded by Waste Management and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.</p>
Dialogue Phase 1: May - September 2008	Meeting #1 May 21-22 Boston, MA Workgroups: ⇒ Data ⇒ Projects	<p>PSI designed and facilitated the first national dialogue meeting with over 40 representatives of pharmaceutical and sharps manufacturers, public health and environmental agencies and organizations, and the waste management industry. Following the meeting, two workgroups convened to conduct additional research on collection and disposal programs and to better understand the nature and scope of the problem. This phase of the dialogue was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, with additional support from Waste Management and UtiMed.</p>
Dialogue Phase 2: September - December 2008	Meeting #2 September 23-24 Sacramento, CA Follow-up: ⇒ Draft outline of comprehensive model program	<p>This meeting convened a similarly diverse and growing group of stakeholders, including pharmaceutical and device manufacturers, California local and state government officials, and the American Association of Diabetes Educators. California state and local governments shared information about California's efforts to address the sharps issue in light of a disposal ban which took effect on September 1, 2008. The dialogue group considered various options for sharing financial responsibility in developing and implementing a nationally coordinated collection system. The group decided to develop a comprehensive, model sharps collection project that could be implemented under legislation or voluntary agreement in one or more states. This phase of the dialogue was funded by Waste Management.</p>
Dialogue Phase 3: January - Spring 2009	Meeting #3 January 13-14, 2009 Boston, MA Follow-up: ⇒ Develop agreement	<p>Participants discussed the potential contributions of various stakeholder groups in a shared responsibility system for safe collection and disposal. They strongly favored the concept of a "product stewardship organization" that would implement a manufacturer-funded program. The breakdown of contributions from manufacturers and the role of the solid waste industry remain under negotiation. The group decided to start by developing a voluntary system to be tested in Massachusetts, with the understanding that if agreement on a voluntary system is not achieved, the state may need to pursue a legislated approach. This meeting was funded by Becton Dickinson and Co. Diabetes Care.</p>
Agreement Phase	TBD pending funding	<p>Following Meeting #3, and as funding is available, PSI will convene a Steering Committee and subcommittees to address cost, regulatory issues, evaluation/performance goals, and financing for a Model State Program in Massachusetts.</p>

What Funding is Still Needed?

PSI seeks funds to convene the Steering Committee and four subcommittees as recommended by the dialogue participants. PSI will plan and facilitate calls for these groups, gather additional information, compile and draft information for committee consideration, maintain communication to the larger group of dialogue participants, and engage additional stakeholders as needed. Based on committee recommendations and PSI's continued discussions with key stakeholders, PSI will draft an agreement to implement a Model State Program in Massachusetts. A fourth and final face-to-face dialogue meeting may also be convened as needed and as funding is available.

PSI will continue to serve as a clearinghouse of information by using its web site, contacts database, e-mail lists, and communication channels to other organizations. Full or partial funding is welcome.

To contribute funding, please contact Scott Cassel at scott@productstewardship.us or 617.236.4822.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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