

November 21, 2006

# Bulletin

## Safe Sharps: *There is still time to submit a written presentation*

Nurses are strongly encouraged to review the proposed regulation and BCNU's statement of concerns, and submit a written presentation and/or complete a quick online survey at [WorkSafeBC](http://WorkSafeBC).

The proposed regulations improve an initial set of rule changes approved by the WorkSafe BC Board in July. BCNU members successfully lobbied for stronger protection. The initial rules will require employers to use the safest device, not the cheapest to protect workers from sharps injuries. The latest proposals would widen the scope of the regulations to include all medical sharp devices such as scalpels and sutures, not just vascular access hollow bore needles.

BCNU still has serious concerns. Like the initial set of changes, the rules wouldn't come into effect until 2008. There is no requirement that employers consult with workplace joint health and safety committees or workers in selecting devices. And there is no requirement to log all medical sharps injuries.

### To make a written submission by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 by 16:30:

Please include the following information in your written submission:

- Name of submitter(s);
- Whether you are submitting on your own behalf or on behalf of an organization;
- Whether you represent a worker or employer;
- Your comments that are specific to sections of the proposed regulatory amendments;
- Whether you generally agree, are generally neutral, or generally disagree with the proposed regulatory amendments and why;

Submissions can be made by mail, e-mail, online survey, or fax as follows:

by mail:

WorkSafeBC  
Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia  
Prevention Policy & Regulation Review Department  
Policy and Research Division  
P.O. Box 5350 Station Terminal  
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

by e-mail:

[Regquery@ worksafebc.com](mailto:Regquery@worksafebc.com)

by online survey:

feedback via online survey ([see proposed amendments](#))

by fax:

604-279-7599 or toll-free in B.C. 1-877-279-7599

For more information on Safe Sharps, please visit our website at:

[www.bcnu.org/health\\_and\\_safety/keeping\\_nurses\\_safe/needlestick\\_injuries.htm](http://www.bcnu.org/health_and_safety/keeping_nurses_safe/needlestick_injuries.htm)