SOP for Recapping Needles at an Agricultural Animal Facility

SCOPE

This SOP pertains to those on agricultural facilities who use needles. Research shows that 80% of farm workers have accidently stuck themselves with a needle. Recapping needles poses an increased risk of needlestick to the worker. Most needlesticks are minor but serious injury could result including:

- Skin infection
- Allergic reaction
- Deep tissue wound
- Miscarriage due to accidental injection of a hormone product
- Serious cardiovascular event or death due to accidental injection of Tilmicosin/Micotil

PURPOSE

A guideline to avoid the recapping of needles where possible and techniques to follow if recapping is necessary.

REFERENCES

Proper use on swine and hog farms: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjL_4PeLm4s

Proper use on dairy farms: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o5WeJHbNS4

https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/hazards_controls.html

http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/productsandmedicalprocedures/homehealthandconsumer/consumerproducts/sharps/ucm263259.htm


PROCEDURES

A multi-dose vaccination gun with retractable needle would be the optimum solution; however, cost may be the limiting factor.

If you need to recap a needle, do not bend or break the needle and NEVER remove the needle from the syringe by hand. This could result in accidental needle sticks, cuts or punctures. Recapping should ONLY be performed using a mechanical device or the one-handed technique. ANY RECAPPED NEEDLE MUST BE PLACED IN AN APPROPRIATE SHARPS CONTAINER AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY
What guidance does OSHA give on recapping fill needles? OSHA is pretty blunt about recapping needles – they don’t recommend it!!

The one-handed needle recapping method:
1. Place the cap on a flat surface with something firm to “push” the needle cap against
2. Holding the syringe with the needle attached in one hand, scoop the needle into the cap without using the other hand
3. Push the capped needle against a firm object to “seat” the cap onto the needle firmly using only one hand or lift the syringe/needle vertically and once the tip of the needle is completely covered, use the other hand to secure the cap in place

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYUbpBLceTg

It is recommended that you should **NEVER RECAP NEEDLES** that have been used for:
- Sedatives (E.G., xylazine)
- **Tilmicosin (Micotil)**
- Oil-based products or vaccines
- Modified live vaccines
- Hormones
- Antibiotics
- Johne’s Vaccine
- Brucella abortus strain RB51 vaccine

**Injection of this drug into humans has been associated with fatalities**

If you do stick yourself with a needle, you should:
- Make sure the animal is secure
- Properly dispose of the needle
- Remove gloves and wash needlestick area thoroughly
- Tell you supervisor and complete injury report for within 24 hours
- Seek medical attention during working hours at:

  Carle Occupational Medicine                       Safeworks Illinois
  810 W. Anthony Drive                                 1806 N. Market Street
  Urbana, IL 61801                                    Champaign, IL 61820
  217-383-3077                                         217-356-6150

  Seek medical attention after hours at:
  Carle Hospital ER                                     Presence Covenant Hospital ER
  611 W. Park Street                                     1400 W. Park Street
  Urbana, IL 61801                                       Urbana, IL 61801
  217-383-3313                                          217-337-2131

  If appropriate, take the Safety Data Sheet of the product you were using.

CONTACTS
If you have any questions, please contact:

Occupational Health and Safety Specialist             AACUP Office
217-244-0781                                          217-265-6790