

## Handling Sharps Containers

### IMPORTANT KEY MESSAGES FOR USERS OF SHARPS CONTAINERS

- Sharps containers are puncture resistant and not puncture proof.
- Proper handling and transportation of containers is essential to minimise potential damage to containers.
- BMDi TUTA Healthcare tests every product batch to ensure quality standards are met prior to releasing to market.
- BMDi TUTA Healthcare recommends that all users of sharps containers are trained in the safe handling of sharps containers.

### Background

- Sharps containers are used in a wide variety of healthcare related locations.
- Sharps containers are essential to minimise potential health hazards associated with sharps disposals.
- BMDi TUTA Healthcare sharps containers are made of polypropylene and polyethylene materials, which are tough and durable.
- Literature reports show that damage incurred during transportation and by shaking the container to fit more sharps, can potentially cause penetration of containers by their contents.
- There are simple steps that can be taken to remove the possibility of sharps penetration during transport.

### Recommended Handling Procedures

- Always inspect containers for signs of penetration before and after handling or transporting.
- Carry the container by the handle or handles provided – do not hold the container body.
- Always ensure the lid is closed and tight.
- Never overfill containers past the maximum fill line.
- Do not subject the container to unnecessary shocks or vibration.
- Ensure the container is stored securely and held upright during transportation of any kind.
- If the container is dropped or mishandled always inspect it carefully for damage then dispose of it properly.

### Shared Responsibilities

- We all have responsibility associated with our professions.
- BMDi TUTA Healthcare takes great care to ensure containers are manufactured to the highest levels of quality and are in compliance to Australian Standards.
- Users of Sharps containers have responsibilities to ensure they handle containers as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Managers of healthcare organisations have responsibilities to deploy best practices throughout their organisations and to train their staff.
- Together we can ensure the safe use and handling of Sharps Containers.