



## **Premier healthcare alliance – Needlestick Prevention**

### ***Summary of Premier’s support of sharps injury and needlestick prevention (1999-present)***

A needlestick or injury from contaminated “sharps” (e.g., lancet, scalpel, broken glass) poses a risk of occupational exposure and infection with a bloodborne pathogen, such as HIV, HBV, or HCV. The Premier healthcare alliance has a long-standing history of supporting needlestick/sharps injury prevention to protect healthcare workers. (See detailed timeline of Premier’s involvement and support from 1999 to present.)

#### **The Premier Safety Institute launched in 1999**

- Support Premier’s:
  - Mission of helping its member providers improve the health of communities by ensuring access to the most technologically advanced products.
  - Commitment to promoting innovation in healthcare technology and to make new and innovative products available to members.
- Provides accessible resources and tools at no cost to the public at-large while promoting a safe healthcare delivery environment for patients, workers and their communities.

#### **Safety Institute website and newsletter**

- Launched website in 2001 on [sharps safety devices and practices](#), including needlestick prevention, representing the first of 35 comprehensive modules on sharps safety devices and practices.
  - More than 8 million visitors to date, in the top five among all 2 million websites for sharps safety on the internet according to Google.
  - Includes sharps injury prevention module with tools, resources, education and training materials for sharps injury prevention that receives more than 3,000 visitors per month.
- Safety Institute’s publicly available newsletter reaches more than 10,000 subscribers.

#### **Ongoing support of legislation for needlestick prevention 1999-present**

- [Supports passage of Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act](#) with Premier representative in attendance during President Clinton’s 2001 signing of the law.
- Also provided Congressional Committee members with information about needlestick prevention to help them gain a better understanding of the issues.

#### **Technology Breakthroughs Program**

- 1999: Premier expands its contracts for sharps safety devices through its [Breakthrough Technology](#) Program, which was created in 1997 to improve Premier members’ access to new technologies and provide a mechanism for suppliers to introduce Breakthrough products.
- The [Breakthrough Technology](#) program continues today at Premier.

#### **Sharps safety device field evaluations conducted in 1999**

- The Safety Institute worked with more than 900 frontline healthcare workers across 30 hospitals to evaluate 37,000 safety devices and identify performance considerations that would contribute to innovation in future product designs.

#### ***Purpose of the evaluation***

- Identify key factors that contribute to innovative safety devices
- Share relevant information on performance considerations with participating device manufacturers to assist in future design improvements and publish results on the Safety Injury Prevention Infection website.
- Contribute to the science of understanding performance considerations for safety devices.

### ***Results of safety needle and syringe device evaluation***

- Two part evaluation with one portion focused on safety needle and syringe devices.
  - Includes devices from RTI and BD.
- [According to results](#), the five most important performance considerations for all safety syringes evaluated were:
  1. Ability to deliver accurate dose of medication
  2. Reliability of safety feature
  3. Hands remain behind needle
  4. Medication visibility in syringe
  5. Ability to function satisfactorily for intended use
    - 90 percent of participants reportedly activated the safety feature.
    - 80.6 percent of participants felt comfortable with the device after five uses (45.6 percent after one use).
    - 79 percent of participants felt the devices would protect against needlesticks
    - Though devices selected may have changed over time, results of these evaluations remain relevant today.
    - Findings used to ensure continued member input into the contracting process and identify performance considerations for safety devices to contribute to future design innovation.

### **Ongoing education and training to hospitals on needlestick safety and compliance with OSHA**

- 2000: Premier provided toolkits to member hospitals with sample training and implementation programs.
- 2004: More than 2,300 attend public audio conference on sharps injury prevention hosted by Premier, features faculty from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and hospitals.

### **Work with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – 2004 through present**

- 2004: Collaborated with the CDC to evaluate the 155-page [CDC Workbook](#) for designing, implementing, and evaluating a sharps injury prevention program.
- Conducted research in eight hospitals over 2-year period to identify components of effective sharps injury prevention program; included selection of device with input from frontline workers and use of hospital-specific data on risks from OSHA log.
  - [Abstracts of results and major research findings](#) presented at scientific meetings, guided the 2007 revision of the CDC workbook.
- 2005: Premier and CDC hosted a National Sharps Injury Prevention Stakeholders meeting to [set the agenda for national sharps injury prevention initiatives](#).
  - In partnership with CDC, Premier mailed a CD-Rom of the revised [Workbook on Designing Implementing and Evaluating a Sharps Injury Prevention Program](#) to all U.S. hospitals.

### **Work with national organizations – 2004 through present**

- 2004: Assisted Touro University in the development of an on-line certificate program in sharps injury prevention, and provided an unrestricted educational grant to fund its development and launch.
- 2004: Premier works with University of Virginia International Healthcare Worker Safety Center to fund the development and mailing of publication, *Advances in Exposure Prevention (compendium of issues -1994 to 2003)* to U.S. hospitals.
- Premier VP and Safety Institute founder [Gina Pugliese, R.N., M.S.](#) received the [2007 International Sharps Injury Prevention Award](#).
  - Nominating committee and sponsors of the 2007 award including Retractable Technologies Inc. and the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society ([ISIPS](#)).
- 2007: Premier developed brochure on [implementing sharps injury prevention](#).

- Brochure mailed to 20,000 caregivers in hospitals, as well as physician offices, long-term care, labs, dialysis and other non acute care settings.
- 2010: Safety Institute staff selected to serve on program committee and faculty at the University Of Virginia Healthcare [Worker Safety Center National Conference](#).

**Sharps safety devices on contract with Premier**

- 2000: Contracts with more than 15 business partners that supply sharps safety devices with two offering retractable needles, including RTI and New Medical Technology.
- 2004: Contracted suppliers with sharps safety devices expanded to 24 companies.
- 2009: Contracted suppliers with sharps safety devices expanded to 29 companies.
- [Click here](#) for a publicly accessible list of current Premier contracted suppliers of sharps safety devices