

**Association of Occupational Health Professionals Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV**  
**Friday, October 5, 2012 10:45 am - 11:45 am**  
Breakout Session *Level: Intermediate*

**Title: “Who Ya Gonna Call” ...Sharps Hotline**

***Presenters: Barbara Brehm, RN and James Fenush Jr, MS RN***

**Topic Overview:** This presentation focuses on an Occupational Medicine Inventory conducted at a 491-bed Academic Medical Center in central Pennsylvania to comply with federal and state regulations. One of the areas reviewed was the Bloodborne Pathogens Sharps Injury Program. The organizational plan for Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control was compliant with OSHA standards and hospital policies; however, the process had operational gaps, including lack of centralized reporting and collection methods for sharps injury or blood/body fluid splashes. A literature review was conducted to determine evidence based practice and to inquire about best practices both regionally and nationally. Analysis revealed a poorly designed process for reporting, post exposure care and follow-up. An interdisciplinary team was formed to create and implement a Sharps Injury Hotline within the Institution. Participants will learn how a new Sharps Injury Hotline and sharps injury and body fluid splashes reporting process provides clear and immediate guidance to employees who sustain a sharps injury or blood/body fluid splash. The Sharps Injury Hotline provides the victim with a single contact to initiate the process of reporting, treatment, medical consultation and post exposure follow-up care. This 24/7 process has successfully enhanced and continues to promote the culture of safety within the institution.

**Objectives:**

1. Review Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Bloodborne Pathogens Standards related to sharps injury prevention.
2. Describe the advantages of implementing a centralized 24-hour Sharps Injury Hotline in an academic medical center.
3. Identify strategies for implementing and sustaining a Sharps Injury Hotline.
4. Describe the project plan and tools used for the successful implementation of a Sharps Injury Hotline.

**Presenter Bios:**

**Barbara Brehm** is a staff nurse in the Employee Health Department at the Penn State Milton S Hershey Medical Center, a 491-bed academic medical center in central Pennsylvania. The medical center campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State University’s medical school,) Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital—the region’s only children’s hospital. The organization is ANCC Magnet designated. Brehm graduated from Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing in May 1976 and first worked as a medical-surgical staff nurse at a small community hospital. She then worked at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. In 1985, Brehm moved to Philadelphia, PA, where she worked as a Nurse Manager for the American Red Cross Donor Service until 1992. At that time, she returned to the medical center as a direct care staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care

Unit. In 1998, she transferred to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit until she began her current role as Employee Health Nurse in 2000.

Brehm actively participates in numerous committees within the system, including Safety and Infection Control. It was during her tenure as Co-Chair of the Sharps Injury Prevention Task Force that she began to work on a team that created the Sharps Injury Hotline. Her focus frequently revolves around sharps injuries/sharps prevention, and she is directly responsible for maintaining and reporting sharps data. Improving the culture of employee/patient safety is paramount in her role as Employee Health Nurse.

**James Fenush** is Director of Nursing, Clinical Support Services at the Penn State Milton S Hershey Medical Center, a 491-bed academic medical center in central Pennsylvania. The medical center campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State University's medical school,) Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital—the region's only children's hospital. The organization is ANCC Magnet designated.

Prior to his current nursing leadership position, Fenush spent 12 years in various nursing leadership and clinical roles within the organization, including Interim Director of Nursing Care Coordination, Assistant Director of Nursing for the Medicine Division, Nurse Manager of a post acute care surgical unit, and Emergency Department Nurse Manager. He was a direct care staff nurse in Surgical Intensive Care for six years. He has shared leadership responsibility for several operational projects, including Project BOOST (the Society of Medicine's initiative of Better Outcomes for Older Adults through Safe Transitions,) the Nursing Department's Strategic Bed Realignment Plan, Capacity Management-Support Services project, and nursing consultant for the Cancer Institute's redesign for outpatient infusion services. His tenure at Penn State Hershey Medical Center has afforded Fenush numerous opportunities: to mentor and coach nurse managers as well as direct care nurses; to promote active participation in nursing's shared governance model; and to lead and develop others through teamwork. He received his BS in Nursing (1994) and an MS in Nursing (2006) with an administration focus from the Pennsylvania State University, and he serves as an Adjunct Instructor for the Penn State School of Nursing.

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