EXPANDED SYRINGE ACCESS AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM

ESAP

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ESAP: NYS Law

As of September 1, 2007, sale or furnishing of up to 10 syringes/transaction to persons > 18 years without Rx by registered:

- Licensed pharmacies
- Article 28 health care facilities
- Health care practitioners who can prescribe

ESAP Needles/syringes possession

- Individuals may possess needles/syringes obtained legally under provision of this law
- Individuals can still be charged for drug possession if drug residue is found on used syringes in their possession
- Unlawful for individuals to possess syringes with intent to sell or give them to others

Requirements for Participating ESAP Providers

- Participation is voluntary
- Providers must register with New York State Dept of Health
- Providers include pharmacies and licensed practitioners

Provider ESAP Registration Process

- One-time registration
- May not sell or furnish syringes until registration is accepted and confirmed
- Simple form, streamlined process
- No registration fee will be required
- Resource directory available on the NYSDOH website for access to syringes and for disposal at: www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/harm_reduction/needles_syringes/index.htm
ESAP Registration:
Complete a simple 2 page application

ESAP Requirements for Participating Providers

- Hypodermic needles and syringes must be sold or furnished with a DOH approved or developed safety insert

- Registered providers must cooperate in program to assure safe disposal of used hypodermic needles or syringes

- Hypodermic needles and syringes may not be openly available to customers
  - Pharmacist must provide to clients from behind counter

- Pharmacies may not advertise availability of needles or syringes without a Rx

- Pharmacies may post ESAP decal on windows etc. as to create awareness of participation
ESAP Safe Disposal

Disposal in Household Waste

• NYS Law allows disposal of needles and syringes in household waste
• Must be properly contained for safety of sanitation workers
• Local laws for disposal may vary so contact your local Sanitation Dept, Public Works Dept or Trash Collector

ESAP Current Status of Erie County Efforts

• 163 Pharmacies
• All Hospitals??
• All Nursing Homes
• 3 Article 28 Facility
  – Erie County Department of Health
  – AIDS Community Services
  – Diabetes and Endocrinology Center of WNY
• Many community based organizations and businesses
WHAT?

Provide the public with:

- A safe way to dispose of medical sharps, i.e., syringes with needles, and lancets
- A way to replace used needles and syringes at little or no cost

WHO?

PEOPLE WHO USE MEDICAL SHARPS:
(FOR PEOPLE AND/OR PETS)

- INSULIN
- STEROIDS
- CHEMOTHERAPY
- IV DRUGS
- OTHER MEDICATIONS

WHY?

- REMOVE DANGEROUS OBJECTS FROM THE HOUSE
- SAFE DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL SHARPS
- PREVENT HIV AND HEPATITIS TRANSMISSION
- SAFETY FOR SANITATION WORKERS
- NO NEED TO SHARE!
- SYRINGES & NEEDLES CAN BE REPAIRED INEXPENSIVELY

Health Care Providers Benefits

- Can enhance provider/patient relationship or establish a new one
- Availability of syringes can be integrated into total care plan for patient
- Foster access to substance abuse and mental health care, and social services
- Safe disposal becomes community norm

37 Sites in Western New York !!!
Dramatic drop in syringe sharing in a cohort study of HIV+ IDUs
No increase in overall drug use
Decrease in needlesticks to police

WNY Kiosk Disposal Sites

STERILE SYRINGE ACCESS
Connecticut Experience
Beginning in 1992 state law permits the sale of syringes without prescription, evaluation studies reveal-

✓ Dramatic drop in syringe sharing in a cohort study of HIV+ IDUs
✓ No increase in overall drug use
✓ Decrease in needlesticks to police


NYS ESAP: Pharmacy Perspective

- Survey of pharmacists’ ESAP practices, attitudes and experiences in 2002 and 2006
- Majority of pharmacists reported ESAP facilitated timely/emergency access to syringes to pts with diabetes and others normally relying on Rx
  - 75% in 2002 & 95% in 2006
- >90% reported no problems or very few problems administering ESAP
  - most common problems were underage patients attempting to buy non-Rx syringes and verbal abuse from pts


Who Purchases Non-Rx Syringes in Pharmacies?
Characterizing NYS ESAP Customers

- 62 individuals purchasing non-Rx syringes in 7 NYC and Albany pharmacies surveyed
- Reason for purchase
  - 36% purchased for medical use
  - 74% purchased for illicit use
    - Black (100%) and Hispanic (96%) respondents more likely than whites (40%) to purchase for illicit use (p<0.001)
    - no differences in illicit versus prescription use by gender or age

ESAP Customers’ Syringe Sources

- 44% from ESAP "most of the time"
- 26% exclusively from safe sources (ESAP or SEP)
- 3% exclusively from potentially unsafe sources (partner, family member, friend, stranger, or drug dealer)
- 71% from a combination
- Rx-users more likely to obtain syringes safely than illicit users (50% vs. 17%, p<0.05)


ESAP Customers’ Syringe Disposal Methods

- 23% disposed safely
  - syringe disposal collection box, medical waste/fitpack container, other puncture-resistant container, SEP, or hospital/nursing home/clinic
- 11% disposed unsafely
  - throwing them loose in the trash, down a toilet or sewer/storm drain, on the ground, or selling/giving away
- 66% used combination of methods
- Customers who purchased for Rx-use more likely to always dispose safely than those who purchased for illicit use (44% vs. 15%, p<0.05)


New York State ESAP Program Evaluation

The overall conclusion is that ESAP has a “great potential in preventing transmission of bloodborne diseases”

(1/15/03, Evaluation Report to the Governor and the New York State Legislature)

Greatest Success!!!

- >2 tons of medical waste collected yearly at community collection kiosk sites
- total of >16 tons of medical waste off the streets and out of the land fills since the inception of the program locally!

ESAP vs SEP

ESAP

- 10 syringes max per encounter
- Provider may sell or furnish (free)
- Safe disposal literature must be provided (ESAP Brochure)
- Participant must be 18 yrs of age
- May ask for proof of age
- Participant need not register
- All article 28 facilities must accept personal used medical waste
- Community disposal sites developed
- General community usage
- MANY providers locally
### SEP

- One to one syringe exchange, starting with a starter amount increasing base amount
- Free
- Wrap around services offered
- HIV testing focus
- IDU focus
- Must register as participant
- Can be under 18 yrs of age
- One site in the community
- Appropriate disposal encouraged

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For more ESAP information from NYSDOH at:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/aids/index.htm

For information or assistance registering to become an ESAP provider or to host a disposal site

Call Cheryll Moore @ ECDOH at:

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