

Examples of how sharps can be replaced in a health care setting with “non-sharp” items or “safer sharps

Sharp	Potential Non-sharp Replacement
Glass labware	Plastic labware (such as a plastic vacutainer tube)
Pointed instruments	Blunt-tipped instruments
IV medication delivery systems	Needless IV medication systems that utilize a catheter port that does not require a needle connection Jet infections systems that deliver liquid medication beneath the skin or through a muscle
Air bubble removal devices	Blunt device replaces needle when air bubbles removed from syringe
IV access systems	Blunt plastic cannulas can be utilized instead of needles to access IV tubing, catheters and dose vials

Sharp	Potential Safer-sharp Replacement
Syringe	Syringe with sliding sheath that shields the attached needle after use Syringe with sheath that snaps over a used needle Needles that retract into the syringe barrel after use
Catheters	Shielded or retracting catheters
IV medication delivery systems	Catheter port containing a needle housed in a protective covering
Scalpel	SafetyLock Surgical Blade System that offers quick release of blade after use via handle lever – no need for hemostat Single use disposable scalpels with retractible blades or sheaths that cover blade after use