

# Continuing Education Credits Sponsored by:



## **Innovations in Sharps Management – Scalpel Safety and Ampoule Safety**

### **OVERVIEW**

The risks associated with sharps injuries can be significant and life threatening. The old concept that patient safety and staff safety are exclusive of each other no longer prevails. Given the severe threats from scalpel injuries, regulatory recommendations and guidelines have progressively improved. OSHA published "Using fingers to remove a used scalpel blade does not meet requirements". The standard of practice is: no fingers or forceps for scalpel removal and no re-sheathing of scalpel blades. Of great importance to nurses and surgical technologists are the safety methods that should be incorporated into their work environment. One of the most significant methods is to employ a single-handed scalpel blade remover in combination with a hands free passing technique. You need to work in a safe environment to ensure you are able to deliver the best safety for your patients.

### **LEARNER OBJECTIVES**

After completing this continuing education activity, the participant should be able to:

1. Identify the risks associated with sharps injuries.
2. Discuss incidence of sharps injuries and statistics to recognize that you are at risk.
3. Discuss why staff ignore their own personal safety.
4. Discuss regulatory issues, guidelines, and updates.
5. Explain the concept and cost benefit of scalpel safety & ampoule safety.
6. Outline methods for implementing safety into the workplace.

### **INTENDED AUDIENCE**

This continuing education activity has been designed for perioperative nurses and other perioperative healthcare professionals who are involved in the use of sharps and exposed to sharp injuries. CEU credit of 1 Contact Hour.

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGIES**

This continuing education activity is governed by principles of adult learning. PowerPoint images will be used to augment the speaker's presentations and a supportive study guide with content and references is provided to each participant. Attendees will have an active role in discussion as well as opportunities to ask questions and share experiences.

### **Presenter:**

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