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As a courtesy, Ascend Specialty Pharmacy provides free Sharps containers so that our patients can dispose of their needles (syringes) in a safe and proper manner. In an effort to decrease community exposure to needles the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discourages patients from:

- Throwing loose needles in the garbage
- Flushing used needles down the toilet
- Placing needles in recycling containers

The EPA recognizes that on a national scale states have varying guidelines for the disposal of needles. Variances can even be found on a municipal level where needles are sometimes referred to as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). As a result, the EPA and Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggest the following resources to determine the appropriate means of disposal in your community:

- ✓ Call your municipality or county refuse department. The number can be found in government pages in your phone book
- ✓ Visit the Coalition for Safe Needle Disposal website at [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org) to find out about safe disposal programs near you
- ✓ Visit the Center for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov/needledisposal](http://www.cdc.gov/needledisposal) for guidelines and needle disposal programs near you
- ✓ Visit the EPA website for additional needle disposal information as it pertains to your community at [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical)

As a continuing service, Ascend can provide you with a replacement Sharps container when your current container is full. Please ask one of our Patient Care Coordinators on your next call.