

Events related to sterilization and reprocessing MDR and Perioperative Reporters and Handlers All Health Authorities

January 30, 2019

What is changing?

The new Safety Hazard report form and taxonomy now includes a detailed list of **medical device sterilization and reprocessing hazards**. The list was designed to reflect the types of sterilization and reprocessing hazards that are typically reported in PSLS. The expanded detail will better support the identification and management of sterilization and reprocessing hazards before they cause problems for patients and staff.

Why have these changes been made?

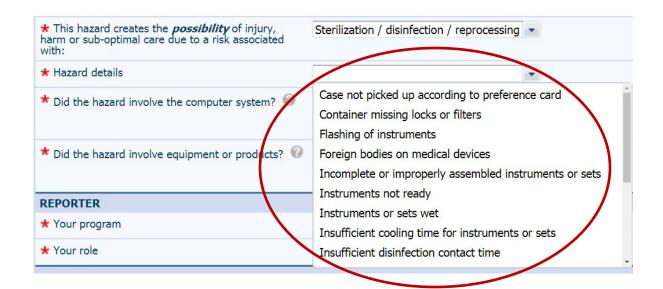
Through quality assurance review of BCPSLS data, Central Office recognized that more detail about sterilization and reprocessing hazards was needed in order to provide more meaningful, useful data.

What do I need to know?

Issues related to sterilization and reprocessing of medical devices should be reported as safety hazards unless a patient was involved.

For example, if blood and bone fragments are discovered on a sterilized orthopedic device *during a surgical procedure*, this should be reported as a patient safety event using the generic "Other" reporter form. If an MDR technician discovers sharps attached to a soiled medical device that has been sent to the reprocessing department, this should be reported as a Safety Hazard.

When "Sterilization / disinfection / reprocessing" is selected as the hazard type, a list of specific sterilization and reprocessing issues will appear within "Hazard details" (see image below). Scroll through the list and select the item that best describes the hazard you are reporting.



Reporters and Handlers are reminded that any staff injury or exposure (e.g. needle stick) should be reported to the Provincial Workplace Health Call Centre at 1-866-922-9464. Do not report staff injuries in BCPSLS.

Where can I find more information?

Please contact your health authority BCPSLS Coordinator.