

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.

The screenshot shows a web-based form for reporting safety hazards. At the top, there is a dropdown menu set to "Sterilization / disinfection / reprocessing". Below this, a "Hazard details" section is expanded, showing a list of specific hazards. A red circle highlights this list. The list includes: "Case not picked up according to preference card", "Container missing locks or filters", "Flashing of instruments", "Foreign bodies on medical devices", "Incomplete or improperly assembled instruments or sets", "Instruments not ready", "Instruments or sets wet", "Insufficient cooling time for instruments or sets", and "Insufficient disinfection contact time". To the left of the list, there are two questions: "Did the hazard involve the computer system?" and "Did the hazard involve equipment or products?". Below the list, there is a "REPORTER" section with fields for "Your program" and "Your role".

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.