The effective use of sharps disposal containers is a key component in the prevention of needlestick injuries. The information below is designed to help you assess the safety of sharps containers within your workplace. It is recommended you speak with your supervisor and Joint Health & Safety Committee if you feel the containers in your workplace do not meet the standards outlined below. If you feel your concerns are not resolved, contact your Bargaining Unit/Local/Labour Relations Officers and/or your Ministry of Labour Representative.

**Additional considerations:**

- Is the container easily accessible (close to point of practice, convenient, in patient room, within arm’s reach, sufficient number of containers available)?
- Are any obstacles present preventing access to the container (furniture, equipment, within path of frequent traffic)?
- Is the container upright and stable?
- Is there a clear, unobstructed view of the container opening?
- Is the container filled below the fill line?
- Is the container unsoiled and free of leaks?
- Does the size of the container accommodate all sharps used within the workplace as well as an adequate volume of sharps?
- Is disposal of sharps easy – the container allows one-handed disposal?

Adapted from Selecting, Evaluating, and Using Sharps Disposal Containers, CDC/NIOSH, 1997.