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## EDCO FORUM®

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## TERUMO SURGUARD™ SAFETY ALLERGY SYRINGES

*Your First Choice in Safety*

In response to the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act, OSHA revised the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard in 2001. The revised standard confirmed the need for healthcare employers to provide safety engineered sharps protection to reduce the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens in the workplace. The regulations apply not only to hospitals and surgical centers, but to medical clinics and physicians' offices. Many allergists' offices have already modified their practices and have made the transition from standard syringes to safety syringes, and many of them have chosen the **SurGuard™ Safety Allergy Syringes** by **Terumo** (Somerset, NJ). Terumo's SurGuard safety syringes contain a built-in needle protection system that helps ensure compliance with OSHA regulations by minimizing the risk of accidental needlesticks. Terumo, well known for the superior quality and sharpness of its needles, offers SurGuard Safety Allergy Syringes conveniently packaged in trays of 25, available with regular bevel or intradermal bevel configurations.

The advantages of the SurGuard Safety Allergy Syringes are clear and they provide a safety solution that will enhance efficiency without altering established techniques. The one-handed activation of the locking mechanism minimizes accidental needlesticks while allowing a free hand to steady or reassure patients. Some safety systems limit the visibility of scale markings, but the safety sheath on the SurGuard syringe swivels 360°, so markings are never obscured. The sheath can also be positioned to the side so it does not interfere with intradermal testing. SurGuard syringes are easy to use: simply pull the needle protection straight-away from the needle and perform the necessary procedure. When



finished, all it takes is one hand to gently press the sheath against a hard surface until the needle is completely engaged in the sheath. Fingers never get close to the needle. Visual confirmation will verify that the needle is fully shielded. Terumo's SurGuard Safety Allergy Syringes with needle protection provide a safe and simple solution to needlestick safety.

When evaluating and selecting these safety sharps devices, employers are required to obtain input from healthcare workers directly involved in patient care. Many allergy offices have made SurGuard their first choice for safety. Myra Straub, an RN with Allergy & Immunology in Joplin, Missouri, said that their office investigated several different brands of safety syringes, but found that the Terumo SurGuard was the one they liked best. "SurGuard was the easiest to use as far as safety and ease of drawing up and visualizing the extract. The safety device on some of the other syringes made it difficult to see the smaller doses. With SurGuard, it's easy to maneuver the safety sheath so we can always ascertain the correct dosage. We also found

that the Terumo needles are much sharper.” Mrs. Straub finds that engaging the safety sheath is fast and simple: “All we have to do is flip the orange sheath to cover the needle and it's gone. Our fingers don't get anywhere near the needle.”

Allergy syringes are used for intradermal testing or to give allergens to patients. An allergy office can go through hundreds of syringes a day, making cost an important consideration when choosing a safety device. While the cost of safety syringes may be higher than standard syringes, the consequences of noncompliance, either in the form of healthcare costs that may result from a contaminated needlestick or the fines imposed for willful violations, far outweigh the investment in safety. These costs do not even address the emotional trauma or human suffering that can arise following a needlestick and possible exposure to a potentially infectious material. Sylvia Sanchez, an RN with Dr. Dale Wood's office in San Antonio, Texas, says in her office they like the SurGuard syringes and that overall they are safe and easy to use. “We also like that they are reasonable as far as cost. We give so many injections and we found the Terumo syringes to be more affordable than other safety syringes.”

Ann Kenwabikise, an RN with Northern Michigan Allergy & Asthma in Petoski, Michigan, commented that the patients in their



office felt more at ease when they started using the safety syringes. “They like knowing that we are on top of the regulations and are taking protective measures for ourselves.” Ms. Kenwabikise also finds that the Terumo safety syringes are very user-friendly. “You take it out, slip your cap off, do your injection and then you just flip that little orange top up. With some of the others you actually have to pull a large sheath up over the entire needle. We also like that the SurGuard syringes are small and the protective sheath that you flip up is also small. With some of the larger syringes, our sharps containers would fill up faster.” Ms. Kenwabikise also likes the sharpness of the needles. “We have used other needles and it

seemed like there would be more complaints from the patients. I know with giving the injection, it seems like the [Terumo] needle does glide effortlessly into the skin.”

Monica, a registered nurse at Allergic and Asthmatic Comprehensive Care of New Jersey in Parsippany notes that “prior to the passing of the law, we didn't use safety syringes. When it became law that we had to use them, it was then a matter of finding one that we liked. We tried a number of safety syringes, but we just kept coming back to Terumo. With some of the others, the safety apparatus blocked the numbers, they were difficult to withdraw, or they got large air bubbles in them. When we tried the Terumo syringes, there were none of those problems. Not only did we find them comfortable and easy to use, but the patients liked them as well. The needles are sharp and don't hurt the patients.”

***There are choices in safety syringes. Make the choice of SurGuard™ Safety Allergy Syringes by Terumo***

Terumo offers a full complement of standard allergy or other syringes as well. For more information about SurGuard Safety Allergy Syringes or other Terumo products, please call 1-800-283-7866 x4919, or visit the company's Web site at [www.terumomedical.com](http://www.terumomedical.com).