POLICY STATEMENT:

All needles and other sharp items (i.e. broken glass, lancets etc.) will be handled and disposed of safely to prevent the transmission of potentially infectious agents.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all TTUHSC Ambulatory clinics operated through its Schools.

PROCEDURE:

1. Needle should not be recapped; however, if recapping is unavoidable, a recapping device or the one-handed “scoop” method should be used.

2. Disposable sharps containers are to be utilized in all clinics where sharp items are used. Sharps containers, if wall mounted, should be securely mounted at eye level and locked. Keys to the sharps containers are to be kept separate from the sharps containers.

3. Sharps containers are to be replaced when three quarters (3/4) full with lid securely closed, then discarded in biohazard container provided by Safety Services. The entire box will be picked up by the Safety Services Department or custodial.

CERTIFICATION:

This policy was approved by the Deans for the Schools of Medicine and Nursing December 2011.