



**Bristol-Myers Squibb Company**

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# **“Household Generated Sharps Management Plan”**

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Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Sharps Management Plan for the Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii.

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## **Introduction**

As some states have approved regulation for the management of household generated sharps waste during the past years, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company has prepared the following "Household Generated Sharps Management Plan" to support the safe collection and proper disposal of these waste sharps. Under various state-sanctioned regulations, pharmaceutical manufacturers that sell or distribute a medication that is self-administered through the use of hypodermic needles or other self-injectable devices have to prepare and/or submit to these states, or the state responsible agency, a plan that describes how the manufacturer supports the safe collection and proper disposal of waste sharps.

These regulations require the manufacturer to post and maintain their plans on their respective web sites. Currently two states, California and Minnesota, have issued pharmaceutical manufacturer requirements for Household Generated Sharps management. For California, the plan must be submitted to the California Integrated Waste Management Board for posting, and also posted on Bristol-Myers Squibb Company web site. The State of Minnesota only requires that the plan is posted on the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company web site.

The "Household Generated Sharps Management Plan" and some related reference guidance are available at the following Internet web sites:

- [http://www.bms.com/ourcompany/compliance\\_ethics/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.bms.com/ourcompany/compliance_ethics/Pages/default.aspx)  
[http://www.bms.com/sustainability/social\\_progress/our\\_communities/Pages/product\\_responsibility.aspx](http://www.bms.com/sustainability/social_progress/our_communities/Pages/product_responsibility.aspx)

Additional sharps disposal guidance for all states is available at the following web pages:

- <http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>
- <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/community-options-safe-needle-disposal>

## **Elements of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Plan**

### **Safe Collection and Proper Disposal of the Waste Devices From Clinical Trials**

Sharps waste generated by self-administration of an injectable drug occurs throughout the United States. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company has been conducting several clinical trials in various states, which involve subcutaneous injection of our pharmaceuticals. These clinical trials are administered by third parties at clinical investigative sites, located throughout California, Minnesota and elsewhere. In each of these trials, the patients may be provided injectable sharps to self-administer the medication in a home environment, and puncture-resistant containers for the safe collection of the used sharps. As an element of the clinical trial, patients are provided with instructions on the proper administration of the

medicine and are requested to return the used sharps materials to these investigative sites using the puncture-resistant containers. The investigative sites ultimately dispose of these sharps and containers in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. These home-generated sharps materials are not expected to enter into the pertinent municipality trash cycle.

### **Safe Collection and Proper Disposal of the Waste Devices Fromfrom Commercially Available Rheumatology Products**

For household sharp waste generated by prescribed self-injectable drugs administered at home, customers are provided with reference guidance on how to handle the "Household Generated" sharps. Recommended FDA handling and disposal is described in Appendix A of this document.

During 2011, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company initiated the commercial distribution of a rheumatology medicinal product ORENCIA® (abatacept) that is self-injected at home. Under the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company "Household Generated Sharps Management Plan", Bristol-Myers Squibb Company offers customers that utilize self-injectable sharps, guidance, instructions and/or recommendations on how to handle the used sharp and on how to properly dispose of these materials. A copy of this guidance can be obtained at [http://packageinserts.bms.com/ifu/ifu\\_orencia.pdf](http://packageinserts.bms.com/ifu/ifu_orencia.pdf).

In addition, our rheumatology product, ORENCIA® (abatacept), currently offers our customers the convenient option to participate in a complimentary program, which allows for both the safe disposal of needles and also patient

convenience, at no cost to the customer. The complimentary program mails participating customers an empty sharps container with a return mail-back box for when the sharps container is full. This sharps container mail-back program is managed by a third-party but is fully funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company has contracted the services of this third party service provider that will ensure the supply of the sharps container, will arrange for the proper shipment, and will dispose of the sharps in compliance with applicable regulations. When a patient registers for the service (by registering on the ORENCIA web site, <http://www.orencia.bmscustomerconnect.com/orencia-patient-assistance> or by calling Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Customer Service at 1-800-ORENCIA), a free sharps container with instructions and return-mail back box is sent. When the sharps container is full, patients can return the sharps container in the return mail-back box. The mail-back box contains all necessary return shipping address labels/materials and postage, pre-paid by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Questions about the program and additional containers and return boxes can be requested for patients who take ORENCIA® (abatacept) by calling the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Customer Service line at 1-800-ORENCIA.

## **Consumers Education on Safe Management and Collection Opportunities**

The patients enrolled in applicable Bristol-Myers Squibb Company clinical trials involving self-injectables are provided with a puncture-resistant sharps container marked with the biohazard label for the safe collection of the used sharps. The patients are provided with written instructions on the proper use and disposal of the sharps container.

Patients receiving a Bristol-Myers Squibb Company commercially supplied self-injectable product receive Patient Prescribing Information with every new package of the product which includes Instructions For Use information on the proper handling and disposal of waste sharps. This pamphlet also instructs patients on the basic disposal requirements. The specific product web pages, with applicable content, are included in Appendix B.

In general, the guidance states that when disposing of Sharps you should:

- Ask your State or local environmental agencies, or your healthcare provider for instructions on the right way to discard (dispose of) your used sharps and the container. There may be state and local laws regulating how you should dispose of used sharps.
- Place used needles in a closeable, puncture-resistant container. Use a sharps container (such as a red biohazard container) or when allowed by your local or state regulations, a hard plastic container (such as a detergent bottle labeled as "Do Not Recycle").

- Do not throw the disposal container in the household trash unless it is allowed by your local or state regulations.
- For additional information you may contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at 800-643-1643 or [www.safeneedledisposal.org](http://www.safeneedledisposal.org).

Additional education and supporting information on Waste Sharps Management and for the States of California and Minnesota can be found in Appendix Appendices C and D.

### **Efforts in Protecting Public Health and Safety Through the Safe Collection and Proper Disposal of Waste Devices**

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company continues to evaluate employing "safe needle technologies" (i.e., retractable needles; use of a blunting media) for our future products. Such technologies/approaches aim to further reduce the potential for inadvertent "sticks".

Guidance links on sharps management are listed in Appendix C. The current guidance (web pages) for the States of California and Minnesota are listed in Appendix D. Additional collection and disposal information may be obtained at most pharmacies and at state environmental agency web sites.



## **Appendix A:**

### **Handling and Disposal of Household Sharps**

Always follow the local regulations regarding disposal of Household Generated Sharps. The following web site will provide access to state-by-state requirements:

<http://www.safeneedledisposal.org/>

**FDA Guidance from the following web site:**

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/default.htm>

**Needles and Other Sharps (Safe Disposal Outside of Health Care Settings)**

The above web page gives tips for safely disposing (getting rid of) needles and other sharp devices that are used outside of health care settings. Patients and caregivers should keep these tips in mind when at home, at work, and while traveling.

### What are Sharps?

"Sharps" is a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin.



Examples of sharps include:

- **Needles** – hollow needles used to inject drugs (medication) under the skin.
- **Syringes** – devices used to inject medication into or withdraw fluid from the body.
- **Lancets**, also called "fingerstick" devices – instruments with a short, two-edged blade used to get drops of blood for testing. Lancets are commonly used in the treatment of diabetes.
- **Auto Injectors**, including epinephrine and insulin pens – syringes pre-filled with fluid medication designed to be self-injected into the body
- **Infusion sets** – tubing systems with a needle used to deliver drugs to the body.
- **Connection needles/sets** – needles that connect to a tube used to transfer fluids in and out of the body. This is generally used for patients on home hemodialysis.

Sharps may be used at home, at work, and while traveling to manage the medical conditions of people or their pets. These medical conditions include allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, infertility, migraines, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, blood clotting disorders, and psoriasis.

There are about 9 million Americans who use needles or other sharps to manage their medical conditions at home. This amounts to more than 3 billion used needles and other sharps that must be disposed of outside health care settings each year.

### **Importance of Safe Sharps Disposal**

Used needles and other sharps are dangerous to people and pets if not disposed of safely because they can injure people and spread infections that cause serious health conditions. The most common infections are:

- Hepatitis B (HBV),
- Hepatitis C (HCV), and
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Safe sharps disposal is important whether you are at home, at work, at school, traveling, or in other public places such as hotels, parks, and restaurants.

**Never place loose needles and other sharps (those that are not placed in a sharps disposal container) in the household or public trash cans or recycling bins, and never flush them down the toilet.** This puts trash and sewage workers, janitors, housekeepers, household members, and children at risk of being harmed.

Pet owners who use needles to give medicine to their pets should follow the same sharps disposal guidelines used for humans.

### **What to Do If You Are Accidentally Stuck By a Used Needle or Other Sharp**

If you are accidentally stuck by another person's used needle or other sharp:

1. Wash the exposed area right away with water and soap or use a skin disinfectant (antiseptic) such as rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.
2. Seek immediate medical attention by calling your physician or local hospital.

Follow these same instructions if you get blood or other bodily fluids in your eyes, nose, mouth, or on your skin. For more information on viruses and needle-stick prevention, visit the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration's website** at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodborne pathogens/index.html>.

## **Appendix B**

### **Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Products Website Link**

ORENCIA® (abatacept) web site:

<http://www.orencia.com/>

ORENCIA® (abatacept): Optional Used Sharps Disposal Program:

<http://www.orencia.bmscustomerconnect.com/orencia-patient-assistance>

ORENCIA® (abatacept): Instructions For Use for patients:

[http://packageinserts.bms.com/ifu/ifu\\_orencia.pdf](http://packageinserts.bms.com/ifu/ifu_orencia.pdf)

## **Appendix C**

### **Additional Guidance Links for Sharps Management**

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/wyl/stateprograms.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/needledisposal/>

<http://www.bd.com/us/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=7002&id=10284>

<http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/productsandmedicalprocedures/homehealthandconsumer/consumerproducts/sharps/>

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/nonhaz/industrial/medical/disposal.htm>

## Appendix D

### California and Minnesota Links on Sharps Disposal

The State of California has published guidance documents on Sharps management and disposal at the following web pages:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/homehazwaste/sharps/>

"A Guide to Syringe Disposal"

English version:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/sharps/Brochure.pdf>

Spanish version:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/sharps/BrochureSpan.pdf>

The State of Minnesota has published guidance documents on sharps management and disposal at the following web page:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/living-green/living-green-citizen/household-hazardous-waste/safe-disposal-options-for-needles-and-syringes.html> .