Methodist Healthcare System GME is committed to maintaining a safe environment for all residents. Residents are required to follow the MHS policies on incidents and exposure, however since residents will be serving at different hospitals during their training program, each resident will be governed by a particular facility’s exposure control plan. A resident is required to follow the protocol of the hospital to which he/she is assigned if/when the incident/exposure (i.e., needle stick) occurs. All hospitals require that an incident report be completed. The hospital will send the report to the Graduate Medical Education (GME) office. Initial treatment will be provided by the hospital with necessary follow up treatment at a designated clinic. After an exposure, residents should not treat themselves or other employees involved.

Guides for Residents:

1. Guidelines for Handling Sharps/Needles Policy
   a. Used needles/syringes, scalpel blades and other sharp items should be placed in puncture-resistant containers for disposal.
   b. Needle/Syringe disposal containers are located in ICUs, Operating Rooms, Patient Rooms, Laboratory, etc.
   c. Should an accidental needle puncture occur, resident should follow the Employee Incident Reporting Policy.

2. Employee Incident Reporting Policy
   a. Employee must report the incident to their supervisor or Patient Care Coordinator by the end of the employee’s work shift or work period during which the injury is suffered or the illness discovered.
   b. Supervisor should send or take the employee to the Employee Health Clinic or Emergency Department if immediate medical attention or assessment is needed.
   c. Accidental Exposure to blood and body fluids which may contain the hepatitis virus or the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV), please refer to the Exposure Control Plan – Bloodborne Pathogens Policy.

3. Exposure Control Plan – Bloodborne Pathogens Policy
   a. Clean and decontaminate exposed area.
   b. Report the incident within 2 hours to ensure rapid HIV testing of source patient; bring along a chart sticker for the source patient (or at least patient name and location).
   c. Ask the charge nurse to assist with completing an incident report and guidance on facility procedures for follow up.
   d. Appropriate lab procedures will be performed on resident at no charge.

The policies listed above will be provided to the resident during orientation.