

Inside the IACUC: Types of Protocol Review

Part 2 of 3

Federal regulations allow for two types of review of animal use protocols: Full-Committee Review (FCR) and Designated Member Review (DMR).

Designated Member Review (DMR): Briefly, a list of applications eligible for DMR is distributed to all IACUC members and any member can call for FCR of any application. If no member requests FCR, the Chair designates one or more reviewers who have the authority to approve the application or require modifications to secure approval. The Designated Reviewer does not have the authority to withhold approval of an application; any protocol with serious concerns must be presented to the Full Committee for further discussion.

The DMR process is intended to allow the Committee to devote more time during convened meetings to protocols warranting greater discussion, such as proposals involving more invasive or more painful procedures. Protocols that involve minimal potential for pain/distress (e.g., euthanasia of animals for tissue harvest only) or that do not involve substantial modifications (e.g., continuation applications with no significant changes) are more likely to be reviewed through DMR. Review through DMR, however, is no less thorough than review through FCR.

Committee members are notified of applications eligible for DMR once per week. While this process can often allow a quicker turnaround time than review via FCR, DMR is not the same as the "expedited review" process permitted for review of certain human research proposals. It is also important to note that assignment to DMR does not guarantee that an application will not be referred to FCR.

Sharps Safety

Sharps are ever-present in animal care. Special care is required in the use of sharps to avoid injuries. This hazard presents a substantial risk for occupationally acquired infection. Consider the following practices to reduce sharps injuries:

- Keep sharp objects in view and limit use to one open needle at a time.
- Use puncture-resistant containers for disposal of sharps.
- Use safe sharps devices whenever possible.
- Plan for the safe handling and disposal of needles BEFORE using them.

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety has prepared a "Sharps Safety" poster (attached to this newsletter) that should be posted in laboratories to remind users to not recap needles.

*** Important Notice ***

If you would like a specific topic discussed or have a question you would like answered in a future issue of this newsletter, please send your suggestions to:

IACUC@austin.utexas.edu

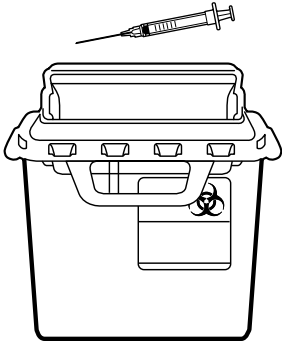
eProtocol Tip of the Month

When using eProtocol IACUC, **you must allow pop-up windows**. Pop-up blocking software prevents the eProtocol application from opening certain windows. You will need to make sure that your browser has all pop-up blocking software disabled while using eProtocol. For browser-specific instructions, check-out **eProtocol IACUC Information Central** on the IACUC website.

The next IACUC Full-Committee Review (FCR) is **March 9, 2009**.

Please refer to the IACUC website for the appropriate deadline date(s).

Sharps Safety



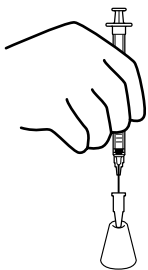
Needle Disposal

Always dispose of needles and other sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant container immediately after use.

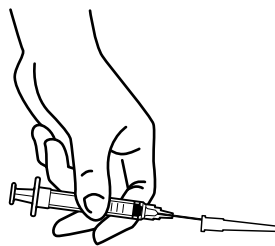


Avoid Recapping

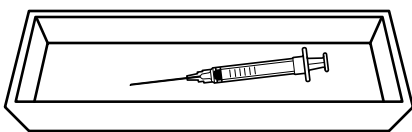
Do not recap needles for disposal whenever possible. If recapping is required for the procedure being done, you must use tongs, a recapping device or one-hand scoop method to recap the needle. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle!



Recapping device



One-hand scoop



Rigid tray

Why is recapping needles dangerous?

It is extremely dangerous to hold a needle in one hand and attempt to cover it with a small cap held in the other hand because the following might happen:

- The needle could miss the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The needle could pierce the cap and stab the hand holding it.
- The poorly fitting cap could slip off a recapped needle and stab the hand holding it.

How to protect yourself from needle-stick injuries:

- Avoid the use of needles if safe and effective alternatives are available.
- Select, evaluate and use devices with safety features that reduce the risk of needlestick injury.
- Avoid recapping needles.
- Plan for safe handling and disposal of needles before using them.
- Put uncapped needles in a rigid tray during procedures.
- Promptly dispose of used needles in appropriate sharps-disposal containers.
- Report all needle-stick and sharps-related injuries promptly to ensure that you receive appropriate follow-up care.
- Substitute plasticware for glass when possible.
- Follow safety guidelines for all sharps hazards (razor blades, scalpels, slides).
- Participate in training.