



## I was just stuck by a needle... What do I do next?

If you experience a needle stick while on your clinical rotation, please follow these procedures *immediately* after the incident:

1. Report to your instructor and/or the Learning Site. If your instructor is on site, they will then report to the charge nurse and the nurse manager. If your instructor is not on site, report to the charge nurse and the nurse manager.
2. Your instructor or the Learning Site's charge nurse/nurse manager will determine what the needle stick protocol is for the facility and have you follow them, which usually involves going to Employee/Occupational Health.
3. If possible, avoid the Emergency Department, unless there are no other options during your shift.
4. If they ask for insurance, use your personal insurance. If you do not have insurance, you may have to initially pay the entire amount yourself. Depending on the agreement between the University and the Learning Site, the Learning Site may have responsibility to cover you under their workers' compensation and in some agreements this may be the University's requirement. If the agreement is silent as to workers' compensation or if it references the Student Travel Accident policy, this policy may afford some level of coverage. Please note some placements require the student to maintain their own health insurance.
5. Contact the School of Nursing's Clinical Coordinator to report the incident.
6. Follow up with CSUDH Student Health or your primary physician on the next business day.
7. Bring any bills you receive to the Clinical Coordinator as soon as possible. Depending on the reimbursement process, it can take some time to resolve.

*Depending on the circumstances behind the needle stick, you may receive an Advisement Note and counseling on proper technique from your clinical instructor.*

**Note:** It is your responsibility to make sure you are enrolled in the clinical course **BEFORE** you start your rotation. If you are not enrolled at the time of the incident, you will not be covered by the Student Professional Liability Insurance Program (SPLIP).