

## Industry Comments

"In a six-month investigation, The Chronicle has uncovered a chilling pattern of indifference and neglect within the nation's medical industry. Scores of interviews and thousands of pages of documents show that the nation's leading needle manufacturer suppressed the market for safer needles, at times using tactics that have raised serious legal and ethical questions. Health care providers, under intense pressure to contain costs, balked at purchasing safer needles, calculating that it was cheaper to buy conventional needles than to save their workers' lives."

--"Epidemic Ravages Caregivers: Thousands die from diseases contracted through needle sticks" *San Francisco Chronicle; April 13, 1998*  
Reynolds Holding & William Carlsen

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"A stick has always been viewed as a rite of passage, a battle scar, a point of pride -- as in. I've been stuck six times and never been infected."

--Patricia Wetzel,  
Texas doctor contracted the AIDS virus from a needle stick

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"Had AIDS not happened onto the scene, little or nothing would have been made of the ... ongoing risks ... to the health care workers."

--Dr. Edward Duffie  
Testimony in a needlestick lawsuit against Becton Dickinson  
Medical Director at Becton Dickinson

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"Here [San Francisco General] was the premier AIDS center in the world, and there was such resistance -- they just kept downplaying the risk to health care workers [to draw blood without needles fit with safety functionality." ]

--John Mehring,  
Health and Safety Officer  
Service Employee International Union

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"Explain the procedure to patients to gain their cooperation and avoid potential movement during the procedure"

--Premier Inc.'s Needlestick Safety Prevention brochure

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“Most people don't have a clue of the complexities involved for the person drawing blood.” “Safety needles, when used properly ... in conjunction with safe behaviors ... needlesticks [can] be reduced to their lowest possible level. “

--Dennis Ernst, CEO,  
Executive Director, Center for Phlebotomy Education Inc.  
Co-founder of Coalition for Phlebotomy Personnel Standards

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Peer comment directed to Dennis Ernst regarding his writing on the possible errors in the process of blood collection process in BNET Medical Laboratory Observer, “Never Too Safe”, Nov. 2006

“We must all recognize that our mission is to educate and then monitor for compliance in following the rules and protocols for safe phlebotomy. I would like to remind the author of the importance of promoting only safety-engineered products. There are two photographs of needles on pages 30 and 34 with no safety-engineered guard in sight. We must not promote the concept that it is okay to use non-safe products--this is unthinkable!”

--Helen Ogden-Grable, MT(ASCP) PBT  
Clinical Educator-DSI Laboratories

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“With VeinViewer, patients never need to feel like human pincushions again.”

--Dr. Richard A. Baum, M.D.  
Chief of Interventional Radiology  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

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"The real and immediate risk of exposure to health care facilities includes days away from work, medical evaluation and follow up, counseling, emotional distress, side effects from drug prophylaxis, decreased staffing and workers' compensation costs, to name a few.

--Amber Hogan, MPH Manager, Health Affairs,  
Becton Dickinson

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