

Protocol for the Safe Handling of Needles

- 1. Acquire recommended armamentarium**
- 2. Select and insert the dental anesthetic cartridge into the syringe so the barcode is not visible in the large window**
- 3. Seat the harpoon PRIOR to attaching the needle**
- 4. Unseal the needle and remove the cap on the penetrating end**
- 5. Thread the penetrating end onto the syringe using slight pressure**
- 6. If using a sheath prop or safety shield, slide onto the needle cap**
- 7. Carefully remove the needle cap, check bevel orientation and proper flow of anesthetic**
- 8. Ensure the large window is fully visible to the operator**
- 9. Clinician uncaps, administers injection(s), and safely recaps using a one-handed technique and a safety device; always recap the needle with a one-handed technique and a safety device prior to changing the needle or cartridge**
- 10. Always recap the needle prior to changing the needle or cartridge**
- 11. Change the needle following three insertions to four insertions to minimize discomfort**
- 12. Remove and dispose of the glass cartridge**
- 13. Check the syringe and prepare for sterilization**