



St. Joseph's Medical Center

A member of CHW

NEWS RELEASE

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St. Joseph's Offers Free Needle Disposal

Keeping Our Community Safe - Stericycle Needle Drop Boxes

STOCKTON, December 9, 2008 – Effective September 1, 2008, California law prohibits needle disposal in the trash. Individuals may no longer toss used needles into solid waste collection containers, including recycling and green waste containers. Many people use needles to take medicine for medical conditions such as diabetes or arthritis. However, safe needle disposal sites in the community are in short supply.

St. Joseph's Medical Center is offering free and safe needle disposal to the community. Our recently installed Stericycle Needle Drop Box is simple to use – and it's free! Just bring your used needles to St. Joseph's underground garage on Maple Street and deposit them into the drop box. Your needles should be in an approved sharps container, like doctors use, or some other rigid plastic container.

The needle drop box is open to the public from 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM, seven days a week, 365 days a year. You may enter the garage from Maple Street off of Cemetery Lane.

Keeping needles out of the garbage prevents needle stick injuries, which not only hurt but can cause infection. Help make our community a safer place to work and play. Bring your used needles, syringes, and other sharps to our drop box located at St. Joseph's Medical Center, Stockton.

About St. Joseph's Medical Center

St. Joseph's Medical Center is a not-for-profit, fully accredited, regional hospital with 294 beds, a physician staff of over 400, and more than 2,400 employees. St. Joseph's specializes in cardiovascular care, comprehensive cancer services, and women and children's services including neonatal intensive care (NICU). St. Joseph's Medical Center is the largest hospital, as well as the largest private employer in Stockton and San Joaquin County. In addition to being nationally recognized as a quality leader, St. Joseph's is consistently chosen as the "most preferred hospital" by local consumers. Founded in 1899 by Fr. William O'Connor and administered by the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, St. Joseph's continues to lead the region in medical innovation as well as ongoing clinical research, developing tomorrow's advancements, today. St. Joseph's Medical Center is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services with special attention to the poor and underserved. In 2007, St. Joseph's provided over \$41 million in charity care, community benefits, and unreimbursed patient care. St. Joseph's Medical Center is a member of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), a system of 42 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. For more information, please visit our website at www.StJosephsCares.org

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