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## **Reducing Needle Stick Injuries at an Urgent Care Clinic Using DMAIC**

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**Author Note:** Catherine Morales recently completed the year-long Executive Master's program in Health Systems from Binghamton University. This is a rigorous, one-year program located in Manhattan. Daryl Santos is the advisory professor of this project at Binghamton University.

**Abstract:** Needle stick injuries continue to be a great risk for health care workers today. These incidents can potentially spread diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV to name a few. If this blood borne pathogen exposure occurs, not only are there potentially devastating consequences but workers must also take blood tests and may have to take anti-viral medications until they receive their results. These injuries are also costly to hospitals, clinics, or any healthcare environment in which they occur. By use of a DMAIC approach, this effort aims to identify the main causes of needle stick injuries at some of the facilities in an urgent care clinic group and aims to prevent further incidents in the future.

*Keywords:* Healthcare, Process Improvement, Needle Stick, DMAIC