



SHARPS / "SPLASH" INJURY

ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE VIRUSES

SHARPS injuries can arise from needles, scalpel blades, lancets, other pointed instruments and equipment, glass shards, sharp pieces of bone and penetrating bites and scratches. ALL STAFF have a responsibility to ensure the safe management of sharps and to follow these guidelines if a sharps injury occurs

FOLLOWING

WASH



- Wash area well with warm running water and soap
- Encourage gentle bleeding. Do not suck wound.
- Dry and cover with waterproof dressing (no visible air-holes)
- Rinse eyes or mouth with copious water

REPORT



- Report to occupational health / line manager / A and E using local reporting framework. Reporting of the sharp injury / splash must not be delayed because the staff member may require risk assessment and treatment e.g. PEP.

- Try to identify source patient. If a patient/source can be identified, obtain basic details (name, DOB, contact number, GP). Bring these with you when attending for risk assessment.
- Insert local contact details here (OH / A/E etc.):



RECORD DETAILS

- Complete accident form.
- Ensure source patient details are collected. If appropriate notify patient that they may be contacted once the risk assessment has been completed.



BLOOD SAMPLES

- It may be necessary to obtain blood samples from the source patient but INFORMED CONSENT must be obtained. The OHD/risk assessing doctor should organise this with the source's GP. The OHD should then follow up results and co-ordinate any further action.