



SHARPS / “SPLASH” INJURY ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE VIRUSES

All staff have a responsibility to ensure the safe management of sharps

Sharps injuries can arise from needles, scalpel blades, lancets, other pointed instruments and equipment, glass shards, sharp pieces of bone, penetrating bites and scratches

PREVENTION



- Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV may be present in blood and some blood-stained body fluids, so wear gloves when handling these fluids and eye protection if splashing is likely
- Ensure that approved sharps containers are available in all areas where sharps are in use and are kept safely, labelled, secured when 3/4 full and collected by a registered waste contractor
- The user should discard sharps immediately after use
- Cover fresh cuts / abrasions with waterproof dressings (no visible air holes)
- Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for staff who handle ‘sharps’ or are exposed to blood or blood-stained body fluids
- Used needles should not be re-sheathed – discard as one unit

