



10th June, 2024

Deputy Catherine Murphy, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: 25091/24

To ask the Minister for Health the facilities that are in place for diabetes patients for the safe disposal of used needles

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

There is currently no national sharps standard that covers the safe disposal of used needles by diabetic patients. Some Diabetes centres give out yellow sharp bins for the safe disposal of used needles and let patients return bins when the yellow bins are full. Likewise, some GPs, health centres and pharmacies will provide a service with respect to the safe disposal of used needles by diabetic patients.

As part of standard clinical practice, clinical care teams always ask people to dispose of their sharps appropriately using the appropriate receptacle bins.

Information pertaining to safe use of sharps and advice regarding sharps (yellow) bins is located on HSE website at the following link: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/health-and-safety/safe-use-of-sharps/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager

