



All health care facilities should have a policy on the management of needle stick and other sharps related injuries and blood and body fluid exposure.

This guideline should include:

- First aid procedure
- Immediately reporting the injury/exposure to relevant line manager
- Medical risk assessment and screening of source service user (if known)
- Medical risk assessment for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- Counselling and follow-up testing.



### Examples of sharps injury / Blood and body fluid exposure

- ✓ Accidental inoculation of blood by a needle or other sharp\*
- ✓ Contamination of broken skin with blood
- ✓ Splashes of blood/body fluids onto mucous membranes (e.g. mouth, eyes)
- ✓ Human scratches/bites (where blood is drawn)

\*Sharps may include:

- Needles
- Scalpels
- Sharps tips of IV sets
- Contaminated slides
- Stitch cutters
- Guide wires
- Razors
- Blood stained/contaminated glass



# Management of Sharps Injury and Blood and Body Fluid Exposure

**Immediate action to be taken following sharps injury and/or blood and body fluid exposure !!!!**

The following procedure should occur in the event of exposure:

- Encourage bleeding from the wound
- Wash the wound in running water, do not scrub
- Cover the wound with a dressing
- Skin, eyes, mouth – wash in plenty of water
- Ensure the sharp is disposed of safely
- Report incident immediately to line manager.
- Complete an incident report form as per local policy
- The injured person should attend either the occupational health service or their ED department for prompt risk assessment. Urgent treatment may be required for high risk injuries (PEP).

## **Remember!!!!**

- . Bleed it**
- . Wash it**
- . Cover it**
- . Report it**

