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