



## Management of Sharps & Safe Injection Practices

### What are 'sharps'?

Sharps are defined as any needles, scalpels, or other articles that could cause wounds or punctures to personnel handling them (*Mosby's Medical Dictionary, 8th edition. © 2009, Elsevier*)

### Examples of Sharps

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



### How sharps are disposed of

Sharps must be disposed of appropriately to prevent needle stick injury. There are two types of sharps disposal bins:

#### Yellow Sharps Bin with red/blue Lid



Dispose needles, syringes, scalpels, tips of syringes, sharp instruments etc.. IV sets, Contaminated slides, stitch cutters, guide wires, razors, blood stained/contaminated glass

#### Yellow Sharps Bin with Purple Lid



Dispose needles, syringes, sharp instruments etc... that have been used for the administration of cytotoxic waste

### Management of sharp bins

- Store away from service users/visitors
- Wall mount – do not leave open boxes on desks/floors etc.
- Close when 2/3 full
- All sharps bins must be tagged
- Never re-cap needles
- Never pass a used needle from one person to another
- Never overfill sharps bins

## Safe Injection Practices

- A sterile, single use disposable needle and syringe should be used for each injection
- Ensure strict hand hygiene is performed both before and after preparation and administration
- An aseptic technique should be used to prevent contamination of sterile equipment and medications
- The needle and syringe should be discarded intact into an approved sharps container after use
- Single use vials should be used in preference to multi dose vials where possible
- Alcohol swabs and cotton wool swabs are single use and should be discarded after use.



## Remember!

- Never re-cap needles
- Never pass a used needle from one person to another
- Never overfill sharps bins



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