

IPC Bulletin for GP Practices

Issue No. 12 – November 2018

Sharps Safety and World Antibiotic Awareness

- World Diabetes Day:** 14 November 2018. In support of World Diabetes day, please find below information on sharp safety.
- World Antibiotic Awareness Week:** 12–18 November 2018. A chance to look at Public Health England's National campaign 'Keep antibiotics working'.

Did you know?

The risk of infection by a contaminated needle is estimated as follows (HPA, 2008):

1 in 3 for hepatitis B | 1 in 30 for hepatitis C
1 in 300 for HIV

Reduce the risk of a sharps injury by:

- Using safety needles/devices
- Having all the required equipment for the procedure at the point of care
- Never recapping a needle/sharp
- Taking your time and concentrating on the procedure in hand
- Correctly disposing of used sharps
- Always disposing of a needle and syringe/ vacutainer as one item. Do not attempt to remove the needle from the device
- Wearing the correct personal protective equipment

EU Directive 2010/32/EU on the prevention of sharps injuries in the healthcare sector

Sharps containers

Sharps containers must be located in a safe position that avoids spillage, is at a height that allows the safe disposal of sharps, is away from public access areas and is out of the reach of children. They must not be used for any other purpose than the disposal of sharps.

When not in use, the temporary closure lid should be activated to avoid sharps spilling out.

Sharps containers should be permanently locked when 3 months old or the 'fill line' has been reached. Do not shake or push down sharps to make more room. Consider the size of the container and its use.

When assembled or permanently locked, the person doing this should sign and date the container on the label provided.

NICE Clinical Guidance, CG139, March 2012, updated February 2017

In the event of injury with a contaminated sharp:

The infographic is titled 'Sharps injury' and is presented in a vertical layout. At the top left is the Infection Prevention Control logo and at the top right is the NHS logo. The steps are as follows:

- BLEED IT:** Accompanied by an image of a hand squeezing a wound. Text: 'Squeeze the wound to encourage bleeding'.
- WASH IT:** Accompanied by an image of hands being washed. Text: 'With liquid soap, under warm running water'.
- COVER IT:** Accompanied by an image of a hand being covered with a dressing. Text: 'With a waterproof dressing'.
- REPORT IT:** Accompanied by an image of a hand holding a sharp. Text: 'Immediately to your manager'.

At the bottom, it includes contact information for the Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week 12–18 November 2018

Use this week to promote antibiotic awareness using resources available from Antibiotic Guardian.

antibioticguardian.com/



Free Preventing Urinary Tract Infections resources are available to download at:

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

View information on other IPC resources at:

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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