

# Disposal of sharps

Sharps include needles, stitch cutters, scalpel blades and any sharp instrument.

Around 100 000 sharps accidents occur annually in the UK.

The main hazards of a sharps injury are hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.



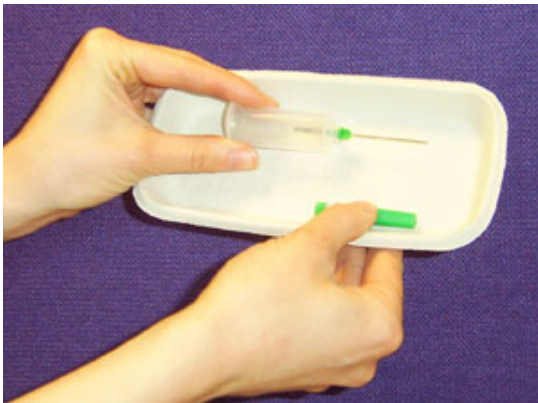
Used sharps must be disposed of immediately into a sharps bin.

Sharps bins should be signed for at assembly and disposal.

Sharps container must meet British Standard 7320.



Do not detach the needle from the syringe or holder before disposal.



Never re-sheath used needle.

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Sharps handling should be kept to a minimum.



Sharps must never be left to for someone else to clear away.



Sharps containers must not be filled above the marked line.

Never overfill or push items in.

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When ready for disposal lock the used sharps container as demonstrated.



The container label must be completed before sending sharps bin for incineration.

For further information on sharps disposal visit:

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/bbv/good\\_bad.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/bbv/good_bad.htm)

Sharps injury:

<http://www.cetl.org.uk/learning/sharps-injury/player.html>