

"Sharps" or "needlestick" injury

A "sharps" or "needlestick" injury is one in which blood or body fluid from one person is inoculated into another on the point of a needle, scalpel, lancet or other sharp object.



Encourage the area to bleed.



Wash area with soap under running water (but without scrubbing).



Dry and protect the injury site with impermeable dressing.

" Sharps" or "needlestick" injury



Attend the Occupational Health department ASAP



Report the incident to the doctor or nurse in charge of the area where you are working.

Complete an incident form.

Report the accident to the College Health and Safety Advisers.

The major health risks to someone receiving a sharps injury are Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV infection.

During office hours telephone Bart's / London Trust Occupational Health 020 7601 7825 [internal 15 7825] or 020 7601 8070 or (QMUL only - 020 7882 3176). The incident needs to be discussed with occupational health immediately and with an on-call virologist within one hour of incident occurring.

During weekends & bank holidays contact the medical Virologist via the hospital switchboard at Whitechapel.

Health and safety advisers:

QMUL: <http://qm-web.safety.qmul.ac.uk/contact/index.html>

CITY: <http://www.city.ac.uk/safety/contact.html>