



SHARPS & NEEDLE STICK AWARENESS TRAINING

SHARPS & NEEDLE STICK

- **What are sharps?**

'Sharps' are needles, blades (such as scalpels) and other medical instruments that are necessary for carrying out healthcare work and could cause an injury by cutting or pricking the skin.

- **What is a sharps injury?**

A sharps injury is an incident, which causes a needle, blade or other instruments to penetrate the skin. This is sometimes called a percutaneous injury.

SHARPS INJURY

- **What to do if you receive a sharps injury**
- If you suffer an injury from a sharp which may be contaminated:
- Encourage the wound to gently bleed, ideally holding it under running water
- Wash the wound using running water and plenty of soap
- Don't scrub the wound whilst you are washing it
- Don't suck the wound
- Dry the wound and cover it with a waterproof plaster or dressing
- Seek urgent medical advice (for example from your Occupational Health Service) as effective prophylaxis (medicines to help fight infection) are available
- Report the injury to your employer

AGGRESSION & VIOLENCE

If you encounter an aggressive situation:

- Contact emergency services if deemed necessary
- Keep calm
- Do not enter into an argument
- Do Not raise your voice
- Attract the attention of another member of staff
- Always keep a safe distance from aggressor (outside striking distance)

WASTE BINS

When emptying a bin:

- Be aware of the risk of sharps
- Wear PPE in the form of the gloves provided
- Do not place hands into an area without first viewing that it is safe to do so
- Handle all waste with care
- If you find a needle, ensure it is handled with care and placed in the sharps bins provided

