Clinical Skills

Clinical Waste Management and Sharps Injury Prevention

Clinical Skills and Simulation Team
Cardiff and Vale Waste Management Team

Clinical Skills + Simulation Centre
Clinical Waste Management & Sharps Injury Prevention

Aims & Outcomes

The aim of this module is to facilitate learning regarding the safe management of clinical waste and dealing with a sharps injury.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the session the student should be able to:

- Discuss the importance of correct management of clinical waste.
- Recognise the correct procedure for clinical waste segregation.
- Practically demonstrate knowledge of how and where to dispose of clinical waste.
- Define a needle stick or sharps injury.
- Describe the risks involved with needle stick or sharp injury.
- Clearly state the action required when dealing with a sharps injury.
- Display good communication skills towards fellow student and demonstrate that they can be an effective team member.
- Evaluate own learning and recognise how improvements can be made.

When you attend your scheduled ‘Clinical Waste Management and Sharps Injury Prevention’ session you will be asked to complete a formative quiz based on the information contained within this module. We expect you to attain a mark that exceeds 60%.
Universal Precautions

‘Taking Universal Precautions’ refers to the practice, in medicine, of avoiding contact with patients’ bodily fluids, by means of the wearing of nonporous articles such as medical gloves, goggles, aprons and face shields.

‘It also means disposing of clinical waste items in an appropriate manner in order to keep yourself and others safe.’
Clinical Waste Management & Sharps Injury Prevention:
Health and Safety Universal Precautions

**Universal Precautions**

- Hand wash before and after each patient contact
- Wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
- Disposable gloves should be worn whenever working with blood or body fluids
- Disposable plastic aprons/impermeable gowns should be worn when splashing with blood or bodily fluids may occur
- Eye protection (visors, goggles, or safety spectacles) should be worn when blood, body fluids or flying contaminated debris/tissue might splash into the face
- Cover any cuts or abrasions with waterproof plasters
- Ensure immediate and safe disposal of sharps into appropriate, puncture-proof sharps bins.

⚠️ Don’t overfill sharps containers

⚠️ NEVER re-sheath contaminated needles

- Wash Hands
- Wear PPE
- Waste Disposal
Clinical Waste – Safe Management

*The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulation 1991* exists to ensure responsibility is taken, by the producer of waste, for managing their own waste and avoiding harm to human health or environment.

Clinical Waste Items Must Be:

- Segregated correctly
- Identified appropriately
- Stored securely at collection points
- Handed over to licenced contractors for disposal

Breach of the Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulation 1991 is a criminal offence.

*FOR EACH NON COMPLIANCE A FINE BETWEEN 1K AND 250K CAN BE IMPOSED.*
Correct Segregation of Clinical Waste

Formally, clinical waste was placed in yellow bags only. Now it is segregated into 3 types of bags:

- NON HAZARDOUS OFFENSIVE
- HAZARDOUS INFECTIONOUS WASTE
- ANATOMICAL WASTE (THEATERS / LABS)
Clinical Waste Management & Sharps Injury Prevention
Correct Segregation of Clinical Waste

NON HAZARDOUS OFFENSIVE WASTE

- Continence pads
- Inco sheets
- Non medicated IV fluid bags
  (Sodium Chloride / Glucose)
- Flannels / Wipes
- Gloves / Aprons
- Oxygen Masks and Tubing
- Any disposable item that does not pose a risk of infection

All wasted contaminated by:
- Blood
- Blood Products
- Infected Bodily Fluids

IN THE EVENT OF A WARD CLOSURE DUE TO AN INFECTIOUS OUTBREAK ALL WASTE BINS MUST BE CHANGED OVER TO ORANGE BAGS AND TEMPORARY LABELS USED
**DOMESTIC WASTE**

**Wet Waste:**
- Hand Towels & Tissues
- Non Recyclable Food Waste

**Dry Waste:**
- Treatment Packages
- Tetra Packs (Juice Cartons)
- Crisp Packets / Chewing Gum
- Sweet Wrappers
- Pens / Paper Clips
- Plastic Bags / Large Amounts of Plastic & Bubble Wrap

**RECYCLED WASTE**
- Recyclable Food Waste
- Newspaper
- Aluminium Cans
- Cardboard
- Paper
Clinical Waste Management & Sharps Injury Prevention
Puncture-Proof Sharps Containers

**PURPLE LIDDED CONTAINER**

- Any sharp contaminated by Cytotoxic / Cytostatic medicines
- Pharmacy identify and label certain Cytotoxic and Cytostatic medicines, and provide a list of the medicines used in your area
- The list of Cytotoxic / Cytostatic medicines must be available on request

**Cytotoxic Drugs**
Cytotoxic means any agent or process that is toxic to cells for example Chemotherapy

**Cytostatic Drugs**
A Cytostatic drug is one that inhibits or suppresses cellular growth and multiplication

Both types are mainly used in the treatment of cancer

NB: Any unused Cytotoxic or Cytostatic medicine should be returned to Pharmacy
YELLOW LIDDED CONTAINER

- All medicinal sharps waste (needles, syringes, vials, ampoules)
- All spent / waste medicines
- All used medicated IV fluid bags and giving sets
- Bottles (Plastic or Glass) with medicinal traces
- Scissors, Scalpels, Stitch Cutters
- Any syringe with blood and medicine residue’s must go into yellow sharps containers

Yellow and Purple puncture-proof sharps containers undergo High Heat Treatment - Incineration.
ORANGE LIDDED CONTAINER

- All Phlebotomy waste
- All non medicinal sharps waste
- Any blood contaminated sharps
- Used blood bags and giving sets
- Disposable razors / razor blades
- Small sharps

*Orange puncture-proof sharps containers undergo Alternative Heat Treatment – Heat disinfection.*
P.C. BODY is Watching YOU!

P - PURPLE
C - CYTOTOXIC
B - BLOOD
O - ORANGE
D - DRUGS
Y - YELLOW
Regular Non Compliances Recently Identified

- Medicated IV bags and blood products placed in Tiger / Hygiene waste
- Medicinal waste being placed in orange lidded sharps boxes
- Gloves / aprons in black bags
- Sharps boxes not always identifiable to area

FOR EACH NON COMPLIANCE THE INDIVIDUAL CAN BE FINED BETWEEN 1K & 250K FOR EACH OFFENCE
Sharps and Needle Stick Injuries

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.

What is the risk?
The main risk posed by needle-stick injury is exposure of the worker to blood-borne viruses (BBV).
The main viruses concerned are:
- Hepatitis B (HBV).
- Hepatitis C (HCV).
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
Prevention of Injury

- Don’t rush a procedure—always take great care!
- Make sure you always immediately and safely dispose of sharps into appropriate, puncture-proof sharps bins.
- Avoid overfilling sharps containers.
- Never re-sheath a used needle.

Should you become injured with a needle or other sharp, **DON’T PANIC!** You have to take certain steps, but the Occupational Health Department have strict and up-to-date guidance regarding how the injury should be dealt with.

Watch this short video clip on dealing with a sharps injury.
Sharps / Needlestick Injury – Key Points

- Encourage area to bleed under running water
- Wash area with soap
- Rinse off and dry area
- Protect injury with impermeable dressing
- Report injury to Ward Manager
- Attend Occupational Health ASAP
- If Out of Hours – Attend A&E to report incident

⚠️ **DO NOT SUCK**

⚠️ **DO NOT SCRUB**