

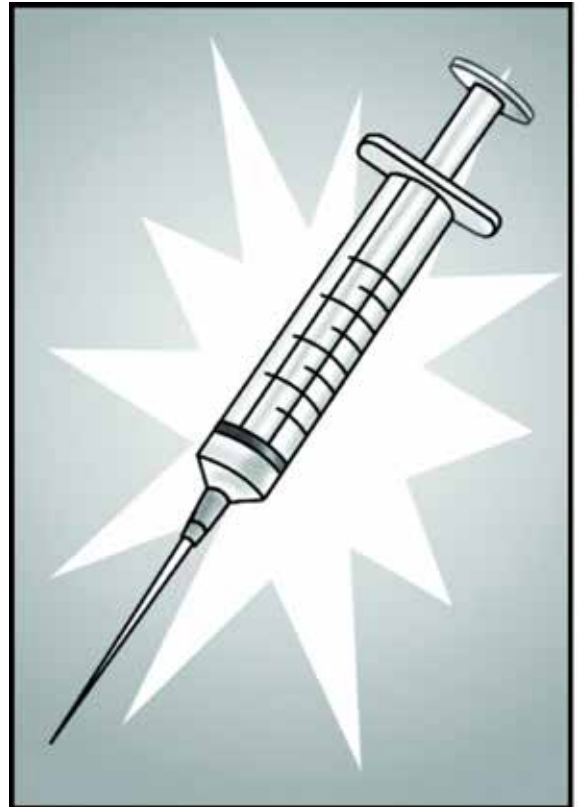
Be aware that used “sharps” e.g. needles, broken glass etc are regularly disposed of in drains, excavations and utility boxes for valves and stop cocks. Drug users also leave needles where they can cause harm to others such as taped to the underside of stair banisters and in light switches.

If you find a needle

- Always assume it has been used by a drug user and could be contaminated with infected blood.
- Do not touch it or move it unless you have to because of the situation at the time, only a trained person using a ‘sharps kit’ is able to remove a needle to a safe location.
- Leave a responsible person to safeguard it whilst you report the situation to the Incident Line.

Disposal can be arranged through:

- Private waste disposal.
- Local Authority waste.
- Environmental Health Department.
- Drug agencies.
- Local Hospitals.
- Client.



Remember if you discover a ‘sharp’ report it immediately to the Incident Line who will inform your line manager to arrange safe removal and disposal.

In the event you come into bodily contact with sharps

- Do not panic.
- Gently squeeze the area around the wound to encourage bleeding.
- Do not suck the wound.
- Immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
- Obtain medical assistance as soon as possible from the nearest hospital with an accident and emergency department.
- If you can do so safely, take the sharp with you.
- If dealt with properly and promptly, the risk of a resulting health problem is minimal.

**ALWAYS CHECK CHAMBERS BEFORE PLACING
YOUR HAND INSIDE**