Needle Stick Incident Flowchart

Needle Stick Injury

Skin, wound or non-intact skin should be washed with soap and water, but without scrubbing. Antiseptics and skin washes should not be used.

Free bleeding of puncture wounds should be encouraged gently but wounds should not be sucked.

Cover the wound with a waterproof plaster.

Notify the pharmacist in charge of the incident

Contact the local Accident and Emergency department for advice.

Record details of the incident (including the affected individual's name, address, date of birth and GP surgery)

Risk Minimisation Advice

- The level of precautions to be taken for any procedure must be determined according to the extent of possible exposure to blood and/or bodily fluids.
- Never re-sheathe a needle
- Dispose of needles in an approved sharps disposal container (meeting standards UN3291 and BS7320) immediately after use; avoid handling of such devices by a second person.
- All sharps boxes must be sited as close as practical to where the sharp is to be used, but not left within reach of children or adults who may be at risk.
- Never try to retrieve anything from a sharps box.
- Use completely disposable sharps where possible (i.e. prefilled syringes rather than separate syringes and needles)
- Never overfill a sharps box – when approaching two thirds full (or the fill line stated on the box), contact your waste management supplier for a replacement.

This advice produced by Cumbria LPC is designed to be used in conjunction with your company’s own procedures and policies, not replace them.