



Needle Stick Injury

# Needle Stick Injuries

Single Point Lesson

**Needle stick injury:** A penetrating stab wound from a needle (or other sharp object) that may result in exposure to blood or other body fluids. The main concern is exposure to the blood or other body fluids of another person who may be carrying infectious disease. The pathogens of primary concern are the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV).

Needle stick injuries are the second highest cause of occupational injury in the NHS, and the numbers are increasing. NHS staff report approximately 40,000 incidents each year and it is suggested that the same number go unreported.

The risk from needles stick injuries is generally accepted at the following sero-conversion rate:

Hepatitis B	30% or 1 in 3
Hepatitis C	3% or 1 in 30
HIV	0.3% or 1 in 300

## Safety measures to prevent needle stick injuries

- There is a workplace Sharps Policy and posters are displayed.
- Staff know the process to follow for a needle stick injury.
- Accident book/ reporting system is in place.
- Staff up to date with the required vaccinations and records kept on site.
- Staff are aware of all aspects of sharps safe management.
- Safe processes are followed for decontamination of equipment.
- Staff wear the appropriate PPE for the task in hand.
- Ensure sharps bins are assembled correctly, and the temporary closure mechanism is utilised when not in use.
- Eye wash available on site for eye splashes.



## Immediate First Aid

- Encourage the wound to bleed, ideally by holding it under running water
- Clean the wound with running water/ soap
- Apply waterproof dressing
- In case of splashes to the eyes, nose or mouth irrigate with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigants.
- Report to your line Manager or Deputy
- Complete incident form/ accident book.
- Refer to practice sharps policy.
- Contact /attend Occupational health /walk in/ A&E (within 1 hour).



The infection control team can be contacted if you require any additional advice/support on 01744 457314