

Sharps Injury Protocol

The blood and body substances of all people are a potential source of infection regardless of diagnosis or perceived risk.

The types of accidents to be assessed include:

- injury from a needle or sharp that has been in contact with blood or other body substances
- blood or body substance in eyes / nose / mouth
- blood or body substance on non-intact skin

HBV - Hepatitis B virus

HCV - Hepatitis C virus

HIV - Human immunodeficiency virus

1. Report the incident to the **Principal doctor**.
2. Complete the Needlestick, Sharps and Exposure to Blood Reporting Form.
3. Carry out baseline testing for HIV, HBV and HCV for staff member and patient source if possible.
4. Pre and post test counselling must be given and informed consent obtained before testing can proceed.

If the incident occurred during a procedure, you must document whether or not, after the injury, any of your blood went into the patient or onto instruments that were then used. If the patient has been exposed to your blood from the injury, then you also have a duty of care for the patient.

- **Wound:** Encourage bleeding from the skin wound and wash the injured area with copious soapy water.
- **Intact Skin:** Wash the area with soap and water.
- **Eyes:** Gently rinse the eyes while open with saline or water, while they are open.
- **Mouth:** Spit out any fluid - rinse the mouth with water several times.
- **Clothing:** Remove clothing and shower if necessary.

Where water is not available use of a non-water cleanser or antiseptic should be used.

Contacts

- ◆ Royal North Shore Hosp. Needlestick/Splash Advisory Hotline Service: 9926 6438
- ◆ NSW Health Service Needlestick Injury Advisory Hotline: 1800 804 823



With thanks to Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ryde Division of General Practice