

Nurses International
Clinical Skills
Information Sheet ‘Sharp Handling and Disposal’

Procedure
Perform thorough hand hygiene before and after the procedure.
Handling The Sharps: ☐ Place the loose needles and other sharps in a specified sharp container as per the agency’s policy. The container should be puncture-resistant (made up of plastic, boards, metals). ☐ Do not throw the needles and other sharps down the toilet. ☐ Never recap, remove, or bend used needles (in order to prevent needle stick injury). ☐ Use a needle clipper to remove needles otherwise it could fly off, get lost, and injure others. ☐ Ensure the sharps enter the bin ☐ Dispose of the sharps as soon as the procedure is finished.
Take caution with sharp bin: ☐ Always instruct the designated person to empty the bin if the bin is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Sharps should not protrude from the bin. ☐ Immediately inform the designated person if you see any puncture or damage to the bin. ☐ Never empty one sharp container into other ☐ Close the lid when the bin is not in use
Ensure the proper location of sharps bins ☐ Place the bin out of reach of the client, public, or others, (bins should not be placed in the corridor) in order to prevent tipping over. ☐ Place the sharps container on a secure, stable surface just above the waist height. Do not place the container on the floor or above the shoulder level.
Disposal of Sharps: ☐ Always destroy sharps using a needle melter or needle cutter ☐ Never pass used sharps from one person to another ☐ Never carry the used needle in your hands, use a metal tray to carry it to the disposal area (sharps container/needle melter/needle cutter). ☐ Do not recap the used needle, if it has to be recapped, use the one-hand scoop technique.

Note:

One-hand Scoop Technique Steps:

- ☐ Leave the needle cap on the surface and guide the tip of the used needle tip into it using only one hand.
- ☐ Place the needle cap against a firm upright surface with its opening towards the phlebotomist, and place the used needle tip into it.
- ☐ Lift the needle and syringe vertically and, once the tip is covered, use the other hand to fix the

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cap into place.

- ☐ Clean the surface with disinfectant afterward to avoid leaving blood.

Reference:

National Health Service (2020). *Safe Use and Disposal of Sharps Procedure* (IPC Manual). Retrieved on 18 of December 2020 from

<https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Sharps-Procedure-v1.pdf>

US Food and Drug Administration (2018). *Safely Using Sharps (Needles and Syringes) at Home, at Work and on Travel: DOs and DON'Ts of Proper Sharps Disposal*. Retrieved on 18 of December 2020 from

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/safely-using-sharps-needles-and-syringes-home-work-and-travel/dos-and-donts-proper-sharps-disposal>

WHO Guidelines on Drawing Blood: Best Practices in Phlebotomy. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2010. Annex G, Disassembly of needle from syringe or other devices. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK138669/>