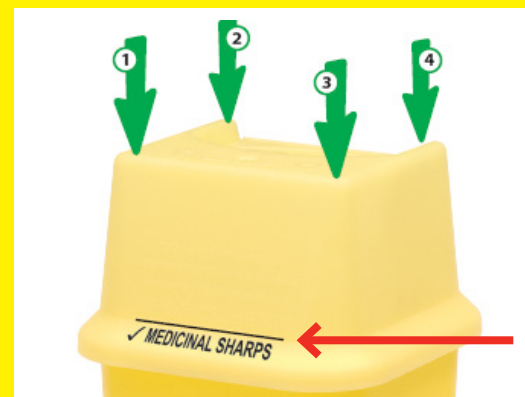


Preventing and managing sharps and needlestick injuries



How to prevent a sharps injury

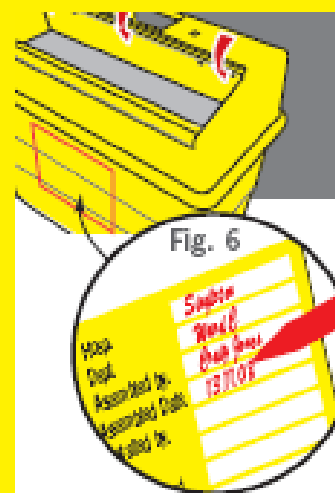
- ✓ **Always** use sharp safety devices where possible
- ✓ **Always** dispose of sharps at point of use into a designated sharps bin
- ✓ **Always** practice standard infection control precautions
- ✗ **Never** re-sheath needles or detach a needle from a syringe before disposal - you are risking a sharps injury
- ✗ **Never** pass used sharps between colleagues - the user of the sharp is responsible for the disposal
- ✗ **Never** clean up sharps used by colleagues / the patient
- ✗ **Never** over fill a sharps bin



Don't fill above the line

Segregation at 'point of use' -

correct waste segregation reduces the risk of needlestick injuries



What to do if an injury occurs

- ✓ **Encourage** bleeding immediately
- ✓ **Wash** puncture site thoroughly with soap and warm water. Cover with water proof dressing
- ✓ **Ensure** your line manager is informed promptly of the incident and a risk assessment is completed
- ✓ **Complete** a Datix® form
- ✓ **Contact** Occupational Health immediately for further advice and risk assessment measures. Tel: 0113 206 5228 (SJUH)
If out of hours contact nearest A&E
- ✓ **Refer** to LCH Management of Body Fluid Exposure Incidents including Needlestick Injury Policy

Remember:
Is your Hep B up to date?