

Step by step guide to managing Sharps and blood and body fluid exposures (BBFEs)

Sharps and BBFE's include injuries with needles or other sharp medical instruments, which could pierce or cut the skin. Blood and body fluid exposures can be associated with scratches/bites, splashes with blood or hazardous body fluids into the eyes or mucous membranes (mouth/eyes/nose) or onto broken skin (e.g. rash wound)

It is really important that you reduce your risk of sustaining a sharps injury and exposure to blood and body fluid, however if you are injured, it is essential that you follow the guidance below.

First aid

- Encourage the wound to bleed, by gently squeezing and ideally holding it under running water
- Wash the wound using running water and plenty of soap
- Do not scrub the wound while you're washing it
- Do not suck the wound
- Dry the wound and cover it with a waterproof plaster or dressing
- If splashed in eyes/mouth/nose, rinse with water or saline for at least 5 minutes

All sharps injuries regardless of risk must be reported to OH 028 9615 2255

A care pathway and risk assessment must be completed ASAP (2 separate forms) available on the BHSCT Loop page

Report injury to manager/Nurse in charge

Access and complete care pathway using the QR code:



Ensure nurse in charge of department or doctor who knows patient accesses and completes the risk assessment

Known source

- Ask the manager/nurse in charge/doctor to complete the KNOWN RISK assessment using the QR code below
- Follow instructions within this form to take bloods (with consent etc.)



Unknown source

- Ask the manager/nurse in charge/doctor to complete the UNKNOWN RISK assessment using the QR code below:



BHSCT Loop page for further guidance:

OH Monday-Friday 8am-4pm. Out of hours and bank holidays - contact ED

