



Work Activity: **Managing Sharps and Needles**

Site: **Various**

Location of Work: **Various**

Risk Assessment Ref: **30**

Date: **10/05/2023**



MANDATORY PPE	Cut resistant / Puncture resistant gloves, safety glasses, appropriate footwear. Also as required by the relevant COSHH assessments.
TRAINING / COMPETENCY	In House training via uHub / Demonstration by supervisor / experienced team member
MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT	PPE, litter picker, tweezers, sharps bin,
SCOPE OF WORKS	Replenishing Consumables
SAFE SEQUENCE OF WORK	<p>Cleaners DO NOT handle sharps/needles but should be aware that they can be present in any environment.</p> <p>Cleaners should NEVER slide their hand across any surface, edge, ledge, or crevice where they cannot see because of the risk of contact with concealed sharp objects/needles</p> <p>Cleaners should NEVER toss refuse bags over their shoulders</p> <p>Litter pickers are instructed NEVER to handle sharp objects, medical sharps or needles unless they have a litter grabber</p> <div data-bbox="817 1330 1034 1487" data-label="Image">  </div> <p>Litter Grabber</p> <p>Procedure With a Litter Grabber</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a sharp/needle has been discovered, make sure those around you are made aware. 2. Make sure the area is safe and that you won't be nudged or pushed 3. Using the litter grabber, grip the sharp/needle securely and place the sharp end of the needle into the sharps bin provided. 4. You can place more than one needle or syringe into a container, but do not overfill. 5. Make sure the container is tightly sealed. <div data-bbox="1257 1711 1390 1877" data-label="Image">  </div>

Document type	Record	Issue date	10/05/2023	©Copyright Ecoserv FM Group Limited
Issue number	001	Document Owner	Compliance Director	Page 1 of 4

METHOD STATEMENT

ESG-H&S-FRM-003



	<p>6. DO NOT place the container in the regular waste, down the toilet or drain, it must be disposed of as clinical waste. Keep the container in a safe place until collected by the waste contractor.</p> <p>7. Sanitise whatever you have used to handle the items in an antiseptic detergent.</p> <p>8. Wash/sanitise hands</p>
WORKING ENVIRONMENT	No issues
OTHER SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS	<p>Perforation of skin by needles, syringes, or sharp edge (razor blade, knife.) Possible passing of infection from last user to handler specifically blood borne diseases, pathogens (viruses, bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms) HIV, Hep B or Hep C, picking up viruses (Covid-19)</p> <p>Knives - Infection can occur through blood splashes to mucous membrane (e.g., eyes or mouth).</p> <p>Trauma from the medical tests and procedures</p>
MEMBER OF PUBLIC SAFETY	N/A
MANUAL HANDLING	N/A
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES	Please refer to the relevant COSHH assessments for substances being used.
WORKING AT HEIGHT	N/A
HOT WORK	N/A
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES	<p>Refer to MSDS and COSHH assessment.</p> <p>Follow site safety rules along with ensuring compliance with site "workplace" H&S and welfare facilities including location of First Aid Box.</p> <p>MANAGING A SHARPS INJURY</p>  <p>DO NOT SUCK THE AREA but encourage the injury to bleed freely. Do this by running cool water over the bleeding area for several minutes.^[1] In this way potential infectants are expelled from the wound and washed away, minimizing entry into the bloodstream. Once the virus enters your bloodstream, it may start to multiply, so it is best to keep the virus cells from entering the bloodstream in the first place.</p>  <p>Wash the wound. Gently cleanse the site of the needle stick or sharps entry with plenty of soap after you have bled the wound and flooded the site. This will help to kill viruses and bacteria, removing sources of infection and reducing the chance of infection.^[2]</p>

Document type	Record	Issue date	10/05/2023	©Copyright Ecoserv FM Group Limited
Issue number	001	Document Owner	Compliance Director	Page 2 of 4

- a) Do not scrub the wound while you're washing it. This can make the injury worse.
- b) Never try to suck the wound.

Dry and cover the wound. Use sterile material to dry the wound and immediately cover the wound with a waterproof plaster or dressing



Flush splashes of blood and needle contents on other parts of your body with water. If the contents of the needle splashed to nose, mouth, face or other skin areas, wash them well with soap.^[4]



Irrigate eyes with saline, clean water or sterile irrigants.^[5] Gently flush the eyes if any splashing occurred there



Remove and change potentially contaminated clothing. Place clothing in a sealed bag awaiting washing and sterilization. After undressing, wash your hands and parts of the body that were in contact with the potentially infectious clothing, then don fresh clothing.




Seek medical attention immediately. You will need to explain the circumstances of the injury and discuss possible disease exposures. Your blood may be tested to determine whether further treatment is needed.^[6] In the case of known exposure to other pathogens, immediate treatment will be administered. This could involve antibiotics or a vaccination.^[7] You might need a tetanus shot, depending on your prior history. Retain the syringe for your doctor/hospital emergency department.

Document type	Record	Issue date	10/05/2023	©Copyright Ecoserv FM Group Limited
Issue number	001	Document Owner	Compliance Director	Page 3 of 4

METHOD STATEMENT

ESG-H&S-FRM-003



	 <p>Report the incident through Peninsula as soon as feasibly possible</p> <p><i>IF THERE ARE NO SHARPS BINS ON SITE, MANY PHARMACIES HAVE DISPOSAL BINS AND WILL ACCEPT DISCARDED SYRINGES AND NEEDLES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BUT ENSURE THEY ARE HANDLED AS ABOVE BEFORE TAKING TO A PHARMACY.</i></p>
OPERATIVES HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS	N/A
WASTE MANAGEMENT	N/A
OTHER INFORMATION	Do not handle needles/sharps with bare hands.
ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	None

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Issue number	001	Document Owner	Compliance Director	Page 4 of 4