

ABOUT SHARPS

THINGS TO REMEMBER



SHARPS

- include needles, lancets, skin pricks, blades, scalpels, pins, razors, broken vials and any other devices, that can easily penetrate the skin
- are contaminated with patients secretions after use
- injuries might lead to transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C
- absolutely no reprocessing of single use devices

USE OF SHARPS

- check for sterility before use
- always place sharps clearly visible and best on a predefined space in your workplace/tray/table
- be focused and straightforward on tasks conducted with sharps
- indicate to colleagues, who might not be aware, that you work with sharps and warn accordingly

DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

- absolutely no recapping!!!
- dispose immediately after task is finished
- dispose of yourself- don't let it lie around for others
- always discard in sharp boxes/safety containers, never in normal trash
- do not overfill sharps container
- close/seal sharps container when filling line is reached
- store closed containers at dry and safe space until final incineration
- thoroughly burn sharp containers in an incinerator at min 600°C



SHARPS ACCIDENTS

- SOP on how to handle sharps accidents should be in place and known to staff
- SOP should include specific steps like
 - clean wound with water and soap/disinfectant
 - let wound bleed / do not stop bleeding
 - risk assessment through skilled staff
 - further steps following risk assessment (e.g. Hepatitis Vaccination, HIV PEP...)
- PEP should be accessible at all times so that it can be started for safety reasons if skilled risk assessment is not possible after time of injury, can later be discontinued if not necessary