



Carn Brea Parish Council

Needlestick Advice

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Needlestick Advice

You may at times during your work come across used needles that can pose a significant health hazard if not handled correctly. Needles may be from medical self-administered activities such as insulin injection or as a result of narcotics use. They can commonly be found in public toilets and parks but can be encountered in any area where the public are allowed access.

DO NOT attempt to handle any needles you find unless you have been trained to do so and have the appropriate equipment to do so. Employees who are trained to collect sharps should only do so by using an appropriate sharps kit in line with the following procedure:

NEVER attempt to re-sheath a needle that has become detached from its cover

1. Ensure that the possible presence of any other concealed sharps has been ascertained.
2. Place the sharps container supplied as close as possible to the location and open.
3. Using tweezers or remote litter picking arm, pick up the sharp as far from the needle as possible, and place in the sharps container.
4. Close and seal the container and store in a safe place.
5. Full containers should be sealed and disposed of as directed by your line manager. Sharps containers must NEVER be disposed of in general waste.

Action in the event of a needle stick injury

If you pierce or puncture your skin with a used needle, follow this first aid advice immediately:

- encourage the wound to bleed, ideally by holding it under running water.
- seek medical advice immediately.
- 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.

You should also seek urgent medical advice as you may need treatment to reduce the risk of getting an infection. You **MUST** inform your line manager of the injury.