

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Cuts, puncture wounds, lacerations from contact with sharp items



Bacterial or viral infections (HIV, hepatitis etc.) from contact with bodily fluids



Psychological stress due to the injury infection risk

What PPE should the individual wear?



Mandatory Hand PPE for uncontained medical sharp waste:
530 CP Insider Glove (order code Q2568)

What other precautions should be taken?



Sweep any waste that may contain sharp waste into a dustpan



Use tongs to reach waste in inaccessible places

Prevention of medical sharp injuries

Safety Task Card STCGE 15

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

General prevention of sharp injuries:

- When handling waste follow STCGE 04 Disposal of general waste and STCL 06 Removing clinical waste.
- Concentrate when carrying out tasks in which you may come in contact with discarded sharps.
- When removing a food tray be observant and show caution when removing debris off the tray.
- When removing rubbish from the floor show caution as rubbish may conceal sharps.
- Wear any PPE provided including sharp resistant liner gloves if you have been trained and advised to wear sharp resistant gloves.
- Never handle sharps directly with your hands.

For routine removal of sharp waste, already enclosed in a specified container:

- Wear suitable puncture/cut resistant gloves.
- Ensure container is securely closed.
- Transport it away securely and dispose of as per local procedures.
- Do not leave unattended in public areas.
- Wash hands when finished.

Discovery of uncontained medical sharp waste:

- Wear the Mandatory Hand PPE: 530 CP Insider Glove.
- Never attempt to handle the medical sharp - use suitable collection equipment.
- Use tongs for waste discovered in difficult or inaccessible places such as WC cisterns or pans.
- Never attempt to re-sheath a needle.
- Sweep waste, using a wiper if available, into a dustpan, then empty into suitable labelled, lidded container.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified and control measures required to manage these.

Prevention of medical sharp injuries continued

Safety Task Card
STCGE 15

Safe System of Work continued

- Arrange for correct disposal, either on site (if facilities available) or via a local doctor's surgery.
- Report the matter to your supervisor/manager as sharp near miss incidents must be recorded and investigated.
- If appropriate, report the matter to relevant client personnel.

Accidental needle stick injury:

- Encourage it to bleed by squeezing the wound gently.
- Wash the wound copiously with warm water.
- Do not scrub or suck the wound.
- Apply a dry dressing.
- Report the matter immediately to your supervisor/manager as all incidents must be recorded and investigated.
- Attend Accident/Emergency or Occupational health within 24 hours to start any relevant treatment.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.