

Only return clean, locked bins – no blood splashes.

Complete the label before giving to the Hospital or GP Practice. They will make sure that the sharps bin is:

- closed,
- labelled correctly, and clean.

Where do I take any unused medicines that contain a sharp and / or a filled sharps bin?

If the sharps bin / unused medicine was **prescribed by your GP** please **return it to your GP Practice** for safe disposal.

If the sharps bin was supplied by **Wye Valley NHS Trust** you should return it to **Wye Valley NHS Trust** at the **Macmillan Renton Unit** or **Outpatient Clinics** between 9.00 am – 16.00pm from Monday to Friday. **Do not leave Sharps Bins unattended at the Hospital, please give it to one of the Nursing Staff.** If you are receiving care from the **District Nurses** they will return your sharps bin to the hospital for safe disposal.

Please **do not return** Sharps Bins to a **community pharmacy** who cannot accept them.

How can I get a new sharps bin?

You can get a new sharps bin by making a request to your GP Practice who will issue you with a prescription. You can take this prescription to your usual Pharmacy who will order and supply you with a sharps bin.

You will be issued with a Sharps Bin by the hospital if you are issued with sharps.

What size sharps bin do I need?

A **1 litre** sharps bin is most suitable for those who are testing their blood glucose and have **lancets or a short course of injections** to dispose of.

A **1.8 litre** sharps bin is suitable for those using pre-filled syringes e.g. GLP-1.

A **5 litre** sharps bin is most suitable for those who have **lancets, insulin pen needles, syringes** and **insulin pump tubing & cannulas** to dispose of.

What colour sharps bin do I need?

Sharps bins are made in a range of colour coded lids and labels which indicate the type of waste that is inside.

Yellow Lids are for sharps which are contaminated with medicines.

Purple Lids are for sharps contaminated with cytotoxic medicines e.g. Methotrexate injections.

It is important that you dispose of sharps in the correct colour sharps bin as per the Department of Health waste management regulations.

If you have any questions, please ask your Specialist Nurse.

The information contained in this newsletter is issued on the understanding that it is the best available from the resources at our disposal at the time of issue.

Herefordshire CCG, Medicines Optimisation Team, St Owen's Chambers, 22 St Owen Street, Hereford. HR1 2PL. Tel: 01432 260618
www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk (Acknowledgements to HSE South Cork and Kerry)



Sharps Disposal

Patient Information Leaflet

You have been given a sharps bin for you to safely dispose of used needles, syringes, lancets called 'sharps' in your home.

This leaflet contains helpful hints on how you can do this safely.

It is your responsibility to safely dispose of sharps and your sharps bin.

Updated: November 2019

Revision Date: November 2021

Why do I need a Sharps bin?

You need to dispose (get rid) of your used needles, syringes and lancets (called 'sharps') in a sharps bin as they can **injure** people and carry **infections**.



Sharps Bins

Sharps bins are specially designed yellow containers. You can get small and large sharps bins. The large bins come with a lid that **must** be attached securely before using the bin.

Do

Do only use a sharps bin to get rid of your 'sharps' which include:

- needles,
- syringes,
- lancets,
- insulin pump tubing,
- cannulas & cannula insertion devices,
- used blood thinning medicines e.g. Enoxaparin syringes,
- used diabetes medicines e.g. Glucagon Like Peptide -1 pens (GLP-1)
- Freestyle Libre ® Sensors.

Do use a needle clipper - if recommended by a health professional.

Do keep sharps bins in a safe place and out of reach of children & pets.

Do store the sharps bins in a cupboard and keep away from food.

Do use the temporary closure on the lid after each use, as this prevents the contents spilling when it is not in use.

Do get a sharps bin from your Vet if you need to dispose of sharps for a pet.



Don't

Don't put your used needles, syringes and lancets in any other container such as drinks cans or used plastic food containers.



Don't put any other waste in the sharps bin i.e.

- cotton wool balls,
- test strips,
- finished insulin pen devices. In general, these can be disposed of as household waste provided that the needle has been removed.

Don't put the sharps bin out with your household waste.

Don't try to remove a needle or lancet from the sharps bin.

Don't force sharps into a full bin by pushing down with your hands.

Don't fill the sharps bin so that it is too heavy to lift.

Don't keep your sharps bins in use for longer than 3 months. It should be replaced regardless of how full it is.

Don't fill the container past the dotted black fill line.



When the sharps bin reaches the dotted black fill line.

1. Lock

Close the opening to **permanent closure**.

2. Complete the Label

Write your **GP Practice or Hospital & Clinic** your **name**, and **date started**.

A label form for a sharps bin. The top part of the label is yellow with the word 'CONTAMINATED' in large black letters. Below this is a white section with the heading 'IDENTIFICATION RECORD'. The form contains several fields: 'HOSPITAL', 'WARD/CLINIC', 'STARTED BY', 'LOCKED BY', and 'DISPOSED OF BY'. Each field has a line for text and a 'DATE' field to the right. A red arrow points from the text above to the 'STARTED BY' field.