



# Management of community sharps containers

Information for patients

This leaflet gives you information about how you can safely dispose of 'medical sharps' in your home using a sharps disposal container. Medical sharps are needles, syringes and lancets.



Sharps bins are specially designed yellow containers that are available in small and large sizes. If you're using a large sharps bin it is important to make sure that the lid is attached securely before using it.

## WHO REQUIRES A SHARPS DISPOSAL CONTAINER?

Anyone who has been prescribed medication that involves using a needle or sharp, e.g. for injection or for testing your blood.

## YOU CAN USE THIS SHARPS CONTAINER TO DISPOSE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES SUCH AS:

- ❖ Used syringes, pen device needles and blood thinning medicines.
- ❖ Used finger pricking devices.
- ❖ Used forceps, scalpel blades, giving sets, pipettes or pipette tips.
- ❖ Any broken glass containers that have contained or come into contact with anything that's likely to be poisonous or infectious.
- ❖ Used insulin pump sharps.

## WHY DO I REQUIRE A SHARPS DISPOSAL CONTAINER?

You will need a disposal container to make sure that used sharps are disposed of safely to prevent injury to self and others and prevent the risk of infection.

## Do

Do keep sharps disposal containers in a safe place and out of reach of children and pets.

Do use the temporary closure on the lid after each use. This will stop the contents spilling when it's not in use.

Do close the lid firmly to lock it when the container is filled up to the 'full' line OR you've been using it for 3 months.

Do write your name and date on the label attached to the sharps container.

## DON'T

Don't put any anything else in the sharps disposal container, e.g. NO cotton wool balls, NO test strips.

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

Don't try to take anything out of the sharps disposal container.

Don't overfill the sharps disposal container past the fill line.

Don't use your sharps disposal container for longer than 3 months. You should get a new box even it it's not full.

## HOW DO I RETURN THE SHARPS DISPOSAL CONTAINER?

If you have been supplied with a sharps disposal container to safely collect any contaminated sharps you should return the sharps container to where you got it from.

If you are returning sharps disposal containers to an agreed health centre for disposal, please ensure that you complete the label on the container.

If you're not able to return their sharps disposal containers to the place you got it from, then they should be returned to an agreed health centre.

If you are being treated in the community by a healthcare professional then the sharps waste is considered to be the healthcare professional's waste. The healthcare professional can remove your sharps waste and take back to NHS Lanarkshire base for disposal in approved containers.

You should NOT take your Sharps disposal containers back to GP practices or pharmacies.

## CORRECT SELECTION OF SHARPS DISPOSAL CONTAINERS



### Orange Lidded Sharps Bins

This sharps disposal container is suitable for disposal of sharps NOT contaminated with medicinal waste e.g. Phlebotomy.



### Blue Lidded Sharps Bins

This sharps disposal container is suitable for the disposal of sharps used in production or injection of pharmaceutical drugs with the exclusion of Cytotoxic/Cytostatic materials



### Purple Lidded Sharps Bins

This sharps disposal container is suitable for disposal of sharps contaminated with Cytotoxic/Cytostatic Medicines.

<b>Health Centre/Clinic</b>	<b>Preferred days for sharps box return</b>	<b>Preferred times for sharps box return</b>
Carluke Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9am-4pm
Lanark Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9am-4pm
Hunter Health Centre	Tuesday	10am - 11.30am
Hunter Health Centre	Friday	2.30pm - 4.30pm
Greenhills Health Centre	Tuesday	10am - 11.30am
Strathaven Health Centre	Tuesday	9am - 10am
Bellshill Health Centre	Monday - Friday	10am - 4pm
Viewpark Health Centre	Monday - Friday	10am - 4pm
Motherwell Health Centre	Monday - Friday	10am - 4pm
Houldsworth Community Centre	Monday - Friday	10am - 4pm
Newmains Health Centre	Monday - Friday	10am - 4pm
Shotts Health Centre	Monday - Friday	10am - 4pm
Blantyre Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9am - 12pm 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Douglas street Clinic	Monday - Friday	9am - 12pm 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Larkhall Clinic	Monday - Friday	9am - 12pm 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Rutherglen Health Centre	Tuesday	10.00am - 11.30am

<b>Health Centre/Clinic</b>	<b>Preferred days for sharps box return</b>	<b>Preferred times for sharps box return</b>
Rutherglen Health Centre	Monday - Friday	2.30pm - 4.30pm
Cambuslang Clinic	Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	9.30am - 3.30pm
Airdrie Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9.30am - 3.30pm
Central Health Centre, Cumbernauld	Monday - Friday	9.30am - 3.30pm
Coatbridge Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9.30am - 3.30pm
Kilsyth Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9.30am - 3.30pm
Chryston Health Centre	Monday - Friday	9.30am - 3.30pm

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE USE OF PATIENT INFORMATION

NHS Lanarkshire take care to ensure your personal information is only accessible to authorised people. Our staff have a legal and contractual duty to keep personal health information secure, and confidential. In order to find out more about current data protection legislation and how we process your information, please visit the Data Protection Notice on our website at [www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk) or ask a member of staff for a copy of our Data Protection Notice.

'Management of Community Sharps Containers' has been produced in association with North and South Lanarkshire Councils

**NHS Lanarkshire** - for local services and the latest health news visit [www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)  
NHS Lanarkshire General Enquiry Line: 0300 30 30 243

**NHS inform** - The national health information service for Scotland.  
[www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk)  
Tel No: 0800 22 44 88

If you need this information in another language or format, please e-mail: Translation.  
[Services@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Services@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)



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