

**BLOOMFIELD CARE CENTRE
STOCKING LANE, RATHFARNHAM, D.16**

**POLICY STATEMENT:
SAFE HANDLING & DISPOSAL OF SHARPS**

PURPOSE: TO ADVISE ALL STAFF REGARDING THE
SAFE HANDLING & DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY: ALL CLINICAL STAFF

1. POLICY

It is the policy of Bloomfield Care Centre to uphold standards of safe practice to prevent the risk of injury and cross infection to Healthcare workers.

2. DEFINITION

Sharps include any item that may puncture the skin e.g. needles, scalpels, glass ampoules or surgical instruments.

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Never leave sharps unattended.
- 3.2 Procedures involving the use of sharps will be performed in the treatment room or the patient/resident's room where practicable.
- 3.3 Used sharps must be placed immediately after use into a sharps container at the point of use.
- 3.4 Used needles must not be re-sheathed, bent or broken prior to disposal.
- 3.5 Use a tray to carry Needles and Syringes.
- 3.6 Needles and syringes must be disposed of as one unit into a sharps container and not disconnected from each other.
- 3.7 Drop sharps into container, never inserting fingers or hands past the level of the lid.
- 3.8 Never place other materials such as swabs, dressings or gloves into the sharps containers.
- 3.9 Sharp containers must be assembled correctly and securely closed when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- 3.10 Do not attempt to retrieve any items from the sharps containers.
- 3.11 Sharps containers must be placed in a secure manner on a trolley and not left on the floor.
- 3.12 Never discard needles, syringes or other sharps into a polythene bag
- 3.13 Assistance must be requested when carrying out procedures on a unco-operative patient/resident.