

Core brief

Friday, 28 July 2017

Introduction

This issue brings you information on the management of sharps.

Health and Safety Executive Action Plan July 2017

As staff will be aware the organisation has been taking formal action with regard to the HSE Inspection report from April 2017.

We have been bringing you information through Core Brief on the three topics considered by HSE: management of falls; management of sharps and management of skin health.

Yesterday we talked about the "management of falls" and today we are bringing you information on the the "management of sharps".

Management of Sharps

- We have now revised and updated two policies related to the management of sharps and needlestick injuries. These are the Management of Sharps Occupational Exposure Policy and the Safe Use of Sharps Policy.
- The above Policies focus on the safe use of sharps and the processes associated with needlestick injury management.
- There will be further active promotion of sharps safety devices such as the SolCare needles and the Safety Butterflies. A new protocol has been devised which will restrict the use of the non-safe version of sharps unless there are clinical reasons why the safety version cannot be used. This is required by law. The new protocol document is available on HR Connect.
- Training on sharps management is now included in induction courses for all staff and e-learning courses are mandatory for all clinical staff. Face to face training will take place for non-clinical staff at potential risk of needlestick injury. Tool box talks document on sharps management are available on HR Connect.
- We are further promoting the Datix incident management system and the reporting of 'near miss' incidents in particular. Tool box talks on near miss reporting and incident reporting are available on HR Connect.

- We have reviewed and enhanced our Occupational Health procedures with regard to Hepatitis B vaccinations. A more robust process is now in place for staff who fail to attend vaccination appointments.
- It is imperative that staff remember they also have a personal responsibility for their own health and safety and follow our safe systems of work, including using safety devices.
- E-learning programmes on sharps safety are available on LearnPro and face to face sessions are available for non-clinical staff. This training is mandatory.
- Training data on sharps safety will be monitored on a monthly basis.

If you have any questions on this issue please contact the Health and Safety team.

Look out for Monday's Core Brief when we will be taking about the management of skin health.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check