

Core brief

Friday, 17 November 2017

Introduction

This issue brings you information on safer sharps and World Prematurity day.

Switchover date to safer sharps devices – update

As communicated in the previous Core Brief issued on 26 October 2017, as part of our efforts to reduce needlestick injuries to all staff and others, we are introducing safety versions of sharps as standard practice. There are legislative requirements for this change being undertaken, namely:

- Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999

We already use a range of safe sharps across the organisation.

To ensure full compliance, it has now been agreed to introduce a system-wide change over to safety devices on 1 December 2017. Initially this will focus on **hypodermic** and **insulin safety** needles then roll out to other sharps products.

What does this mean for users of sharps?

From 1 December, where safer sharps are available, procurement will supply them as standard. This means that you can only use non-safe sharps where you can demonstrate, via a suitable risk assessment, sound clinical reasons why a non-safety unprotected sharp must be used. That is, it causes a clinical risk if the safer sharp is utilised, for example, the safety shield obstructs the view of the user during fine detailed clinical activity (ophthalmology surgery).

Personal choice or preference is **NOT** a sound clinical reason for using a non safe sharp Completed risk assessments for the continued use of non-safe sharps should be forwarded to Health.Safety@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

LearnPro modules

All sharps users must undertake two LearnPro modules found here:

1. Tab – 'Infection Prevention and Control'/Course – 'NES: Scottish IPC Education Pathway'/Module – Prevention and Management of Occupational Exposure'
2. Tab – Statutory/Mandatory'/Module – GGC: Management of Needlestick & Similar Injuries

Staff who do not use sharps but may come into contact with them must undertake the following LearnPro module:

1. Tab – Statutory / Mandatory'/Module – GGC: Management of Needlestick & Similar Injuries

UK's largest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit pharmacy team honoured ahead of World Prematurity Day

A Glasgow Neonatal Intensive Care pharmacy team is playing a leading role in transforming the survival prospects of some of Scotland's most vulnerable babies.

Based in Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the team treats babies with complex needs - including babies born as early as 23 weeks and others weighing as little as 1lb. [Click here to read more.](#)

[Click here to read how Tillie and Lottie lead the purple party on World Prematurity Day.](#)

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