

# Core brief

Friday, 09 February 2018

## Introduction

This issue of Core Brief brings you information on the switchover to safer sharps devices.

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### Switchover to safer Sharps devices – next phase February 2018

As communicated in previous Core Brief issued in October and November 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. This is required by the Sharps in Healthcare Regulations.

From 1 December 2017 we began to introduce a changeover to safety devices which initially focused on Hypodermic and Insulin Safety needles.

From **5 February 2018** we will roll out the next phase which will focus on Cannula and Blood Collection Needles.

### What does this mean for users of Cannula and Blood Collection Needles?

From this date, where Safer Sharps are available Procurement will supply them as standard. The majority of areas should see no change as data shows that they already order Cannula and Blood Collection Needles which have safety devices incorporated into the design.

Those areas who wish to continue to use a device without a safety feature are required to demonstrate, via a **suitable risk assessment**, sound clinical reasons why a non safety unprotected sharp must be used. For example the use of the safety device,

- Compromises patient care
- Exposes staff or patient to other more significant hazards

Completed risk assessments should be forwarded to [Health.Safety@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Health.Safety@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

If you have any queries on this issue please contact your local Health and Safety or Procurement contact.

### Mandatory Sharps LearnPro Modules

As a reminder we have also highlighted the processes for accessing the mandatory learnpro training modules on sharps safety as below:

1. All staff **who may come into contact with** a healthcare related sharp (needle, lancet, blade etc) **must** complete the module located on LearnPro below:

Tab – Role Specific Mandatory Modules | Course – GGC: Management of Needlestick and Similar Injuries

2. All staff **who use** a healthcare related sharp **must** complete both the above module and the module below:

Tab – ‘Infection Prevention and Control’ | Course – ‘NES: Scottish IPC Education Pathway’ | Module – ‘Prevention and Management of Occupational Exposure’

**NB** If you cannot find the above modules, type ‘needle’ or ‘sharp’ into the search bar in LearnPro and both modules will be displayed.

For more information please visit [Hot Topics on StaffNet](#)

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