

# Core brief

Friday, 18 January 2019

## Introduction

This issue reminds staff of the importance knowing what to do when a needlestick injury occurs and provides a message from Jeanne Freeman about EU Exit.

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## Needlestick injuries

A number of staff with needlestick injuries have attended the Emergency Department (ED) inappropriately, staff should only attend ED when needlestick injuries occur out of hours. Staff with needlestick injuries should attend occupational health during working hours and only attend ED out of hours.

Staff should be following the needlestick injury policy at all times when an injury or near miss occurs. [The policy can be found on HR Connect](#)

Staff should also be aware of the risk of needlestick injury from discarded needles from IV drug users within hospital settings. IV drug users are regarded as high risk and staff should be vigilant.

The main area of risk facing staff is carelessly discarded needles within black, yellow or orange bags. All staff including domestic and nursing staff must be aware of procedures when replacing or moving waste bags.

Staff should be aware:

- All needlestick injuries must be reported on Datix.
- A revised generic risk assessment referencing the risk of needlestick injury from carelessly discarded needles from [IV drug users is now available](#). The risk assessment should be printed and made available for staff.
- Managers must carry out a source blood risk assessment, to enable occupational health to take the appropriate action in terms of treatment for needlestick injuries.
- Occupational Health can be contacted Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm.

Attached is a letter from Jeanne Freeman the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, which provides an update on EU Exit. [Click here for more](#). (Available on StaffNet only)