



**Royal Berkshire**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Keep injecting equipment away from others

Dispose of used works safely

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**You have a responsibility to ensure that others including children, are not affected by the unsafe disposal of your injecting equipment.**

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## **Disposing of used equipment**

All used equipment must be disposed of in a sharps bin, this should include: needles, filters, swabs, tissues, spoons, foil, crack pipes, Citric and Vitamin C sachets, water amps etc. The sharps bin should then be returned to your local needle exchange or pharmacy.

Sharps bins come in all shapes and sizes, from very small pocket bins, which can be easily carried in a bag, to larger 4 and 7 litre bins. Even if you are injecting yourself, it is important to be aware of the risks caused by needle-stick injury. Hepatitis, HIV and other infections may be passed on.

- Never handle other people's works.
- Never share any equipment.

Always put **everything** in a sharps bin straight after use.

## **Children**

Children should not be witness to drug using behaviour, for example seeing you or others injecting.

It is important to be aware that children and babies do not have the same understanding of danger as we do, they are unlikely to be frightened of needles or works, and may attempt to grab them or pick them up.

If you or someone else is using injecting equipment in your home, keep a sharps bin in a locked secure place out of the reach and out of sight of children and make sure all equipment is disposed of immediately. Contact your local needle exchange for collection or disposal of sharps bins.

If you find used works on the street or in your garden **do not attempt to pick up, move or dispose of them, even if they look clean**. Make sure your children do not touch them: there is a risk of

becoming infected with Hepatitis and HIV.

Call your local council who will have appropriate arrangements for the collection and disposal of hazardous litter in public areas.

## Emergency action

If you think you have put yourself at risk from a needlestick injury, you should:

- 1) Encourage bleeding by squeezing the site.
- 2) Wash thoroughly with soap and water.
- 3) Cover with a plaster to prevent bacteria from entering the wound.
- 4) Seek immediate medical attention – do not panic, but it is important that you get checked out as you may need to be tested for Hepatitis and HIV. You will be supported through this process.

## Pharmacies offering needle exchange:

### Reading:

- Southcote Pharmacy, 36 Coronation Square, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3QN Tel: 0118 957 5619
- Caversham Pharmacy, 59a Hemdean Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7SS Tel: 0118 947 1776
- Erleigh Road Pharmacy, 85 Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5NN Tel: 0118 966 3718
- Western Elms Pharmacy, 351-353 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1AY Tel: [0118 958 6502](tel:01189586502)
- Newdays Pharmacy, 60 Wensley Road, Coley Park, Reading, RG1 6DJ Tel: [0118 959 0270](tel:01189590270)
- Oxford Road Pharmacy, 276 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1AD Tel: 0118 957 4999
- Whitley Wood Pharmacy, 534 Northumberland Ave, Reading, RG2 8NY Tel: 0118 987 2023

### Newbury:

- Swanswell, 1 Station Road, Newbury RG14 7PL. Contact: 0300 003 7025. Drop-in times are Monday-Friday from 12-4pm

## **Wokingham:**

- SMART Drug & alcohol Service, Windsor House, Station Road Wokingham RG40 2AE Tel: 0118 977 2022
- Wokingham Pharmacy, 33 Broad St, Wokingham RG40 1AU Tel: 0118 978 7459
- Waste Services Team offers a free and confidential service for sharps collection from private homes in Wokingham. Visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/collections/clinical-waste-collection/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/collections/clinical-waste-collection/) or e-mail [customerservice@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@wokingham.gov.uk)

## **Bracknell:**

- New Hope, 16/17 Market St, Bracknell RG12 1JG RG12 1JG  
Contact: 01344 312360
- Bullbrook Pharmacy, 3 Bullbrook Drive, Bracknell RG12 2NL Tel: 01344 454012

## **South Oxfordshire:**

Regular users of syringes, e.g. diabetics should contact their GP to arrange for needle disposal (this includes illegal drug takers). The needle disposal/exchange may be done either via the GP or through needle exchange charities.

- <http://wellbeing.turning-point.co.uk/oxfordshire/our-services/needle-exchange/>
- <http://www.oxfordshiredaat.org/PharmaciesSWOP.htm>

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

J Pendennis, Substance Specialist MW, May 2011

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*Based on a leaflet by Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board.*