



HSE Alert: Prevention of Needlestick and Other Sharps Injuries

By Dubai Healthcare City Authority - Regulatory

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Health, Environment and Safety (HSE) Department at Dubai Healthcare City Authority – Regulatory (DHCR) plays a vital role in promoting the health and safety of all members of the Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) Community. The HSE Department works closely with DHCC’s clinical and non-clinical business partners to take proactive measures to prevent the occurrence of avoidable emergencies and incidents, and to maintain the highest safety standards, protecting employees, property and the environment.

This ‘Prevention of Needlestick and Other Sharps Injuries’ alert advises on safe use and disposal of sharps such as needles, scalpels, lancets, razor blades, scissors, cutters, and glass items.

Needlestick Injuries

Needlestick injuries are wounds caused by needles that accidentally puncture the skin.

- Needles and other sharps expose us to the risk of punctures and cuts, which can additionally provide a portal for the entry of pathogens and chemicals.
- Biologically and chemically contaminated sharps can be responsible for additional infection and health risks.
- If not disposed correctly, sharps can be a hazard to both the user, and those who may come in contact with them after disposal, including the route till the landfill or a waste contractor.

Noncompliance

Partners, regardless of the size, activity, occupancy or hazards of their areas of operations, have a legal duty to know and familiarize themselves with the DHCR [Sharps Management Guidelines](#). Noncompliance will face disciplinary action including penalties.

Noncompliance can include:

- Sharps being disposed in general waste bins.
- Overflowing sharps boxes.

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HSE Observations

In December 2018, a housekeeping staff member suffered from a needlestick injury when collecting trash from a washroom in Al Razi Medical Complex (building 64). In February 2019, a used syringe was found in a trash bin in the same vicinity, but no injury was reported.

The occurrence of such instances can be attributed to:

- Poor awareness of DHCR's regulations on sharps management.
- Poor awareness about the risk involved if a needlestick injury occurs.
- Inadequate warning posters/sharps receptacles.



Syringes disposed with general waste



Overflowing sharps box



Syringe discarded incorrectly



Sharps disposed in general waste rooms

Images taken by: DHCC facilities management provider, Emrill.

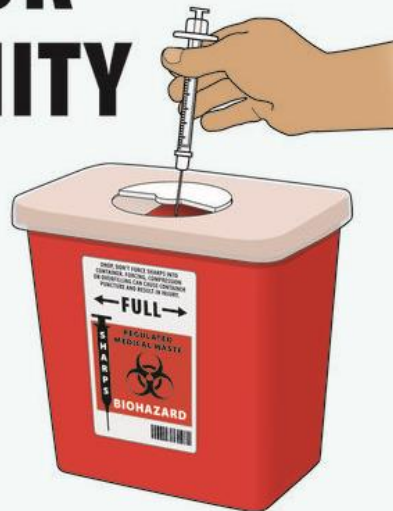
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Prevention

- Dispose sharps correctly as per DHCR guidelines.
- Post warning signage and provide sharps receptacles.
- Ensure proper training and awareness on the hazards to workers and visitors.
- Regular HSE alerts to all partners.

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE

USE A SHARPS CONTAINER



DHCR-HSE Department requires all business partners to report all incidents including near-misses through [DHCR Incident Reporting](#)

For general inquiries, please contact Dubai Healthcare City Authority – Regulatory (DHCR) via info@dhcr.gov.ae or 04 3838300. To get in touch with HSE, please contact Beenish Renzu, Executive – HSE Inspector, DHCR via Beenish.renzu@dhcr.gov.ae