

Managing of needlestick/sharp/fluid incident by the senior/lead/manager



It is essential that you follow this procedure as fast as possible. If HIV post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is required, this should be started within one hour of the incident. Read this document in conjunction with the needlestick/contamination policy, which can be found on the NPC intranet.

Risk assessment

Complete the risk assessment form. This can be found on the Northumbria Primary Care intranet. If you do not have access, please speak to your manager.

Ensure the member of staff has followed the initial procedure.

Following completion of risk assessment

Ensure the source bloods are taken with consent (if applicable).

In high-risk cases where PEP is required, release the employee immediately to go and obtain this as it is time-critical (within 1 hour). Ensure they have transport to get to A&E.

Documentation

Record the incident and handle the investigation to its conclusion.

In cases of poor practice, arrange for training for the employee.

Ensure support is provided for the employee if required.

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First aid

If the splash contamination or injury is to the eyes and/or mouth, irrigate the area with water.

For splash or injury to the skin:

- Wash site immediately and thoroughly with soap and running water
- Do not scrub the injured area and do not use antiseptics
- Gently encourage bleeding if the skin has been broken by applying slight pressure
- Do not suck the injury site under any circumstances
- Dry and cover the wound with a waterproof plaster

Immediately following first aid

Make a note of the name, DOB and NHS number of the source patient involved. If he/she cannot be identified, record where the sharp was located, how the injury was sustained and the area of the body that was injured/splashed.

Documentation

Inform your senior colleague/lead/nurse/GP partner/line manager that an incident has occurred and ask them to complete a risk assessment giving them as much detail as possible. If the incident occurred out of hours or not at your usual place of work, you are still required to speak with someone at the practice in order to complete the necessary assessments and next steps.