

Patient information

Safe Sharps Disposal

Diabetes and Endocrinology Department

If you use an insulin syringe or pen you need to ensure that your sharps are safe from harm to yourself and others. There are different schemes and arrangements in place for the safe disposal of your sharps box once it is full, depending on where you live.

If you live in the Liverpool, Sefton or Knowsley you can ask your diabetes specialist nurse, practice nurse or district nurse to register you on your Council's sharps box scheme. You will receive a sharps box from your nurse and then when it is two-thirds full call the appropriate number below and ask for collection and replacement of the sharps box.

- **If you live in the Liverpool area you should call**

Tel: 0151 233 3001

Text phone number: 18001 0151 233 3001

- **If you live in the Sefton area you should call**

Tel: 08451400845

Text phone number: 18001 08451400845

- **If you live in the Knowsley area you should call**

Tel: 0151 443 2400

Text phone number: 18001 0151 443 2400

Advice

Safety

- Never share syringes or finger-pricking devices.
- Keep all your needles and glucose monitoring equipment clean, bloodstain free and out of reach of children at all times.
- Never try to retrieve anything once it has been put in the sharp's disposal box.

Storage

- Needles, syringes and lancets must not be disposed of in fizzy drinks cans, plastic bottles or similar containers as they are not safe for disposal and could result in injury to others. They are clinical waste and need a special system for disposal.

- You can dispose of your needles, syringes and lancets in a sharps disposal box. A clipper, a device that enables you to safely snap off sharps from your syringes/pens, can also be useful as a method of storage. The clipper needs to be disposed of in a sharp's disposal box when full in accordance with your local guidelines for clinical waste disposal.
- Lancets cannot be disposed of using clippers as these are not designed to remove the lancet needle.

Travel

- When travelling by air you can check with your GP to ensure your disposal equipment such as clippers and sharps disposal box are included in your accompanying letter regarding your treatment and equipment.
- Information about the guidelines for disposal in the country you are visiting can be sought from the Association for Diabetes in the country you are visiting.

Keep sharps boxes out of reach of children.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information

The Diabetes Centre

Tel: 0151 706 2829

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2829

NHS 111

Tel: 111

The North West Diabetes UK

First Floor,

The Boultings

Winwick Street,

Warrington

WA2 7TT

Tel: 01925 653 281

e-mail n.west@diabetes.org.uk

Diabetes UK
10 Parkway
London
NW1 7AA

Website www.diabetes.org.uk

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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