

# Managing used Needles and Lancets Safely at Home

## Useful Numbers

Diabetes Centre 01 878 4438

Main Hospital Number 01 878 4200

Our campus is smoke free from February  
13th 2013



Please remember to wash your hands or use  
hand gel when visiting the Hospital



Author: Diabetes Nursing Team

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Information Leaflet for  
Parents or Carers

This lists contains helpful hints for the safe use and disposal of used needles including syringes, pen needles and lancets called sharps within the hospital.

You have been advised to use a sharps container to dispose of used needles and lancets at home. It is your responsibility to dispose of your child's needles safely.

### Why are used needles dangerous?

There are a number of reasons why you must take care when disposing used needles and lancets including;

- Used syringes, needles and lancets can injure people
- Used syringes, needles and lancets can carry infections such as hepatitis (if a person who used the needle is infected)

### Where do I get a safe container for used needles and lancets (sharps)

When your child is first diagnosed with diabetes one of our Diabetes Nurse Specialists will give you a sharps container and show you how to use it safely. Each container will be signed and dated by one of our staff.

At home please contact your local health centre or pharmacy to arrange replacement sharps containers which you must return to them when full.

If you have any difficulty in getting a supply of sharps containers or returning full containers please contact the Diabetes Nurses who can help you with this matter

### DO

- ✓ Use the sharps container only to dispose of your used needles and lancets
- ✓ Do use the temporary closure lid to help prevent spilling when you are not using the bin
- ✓ Do keep the container out of reach from young children and pets
- ✓ When it is full close the lid until you hear it click. This means it is locked and can not be opened easily.
- ✓ Do make sure you have another container available before your current one is full
- ✓ Do fill in your name and date when you lock your bin
- ✓ Do dispose of your full locked sharps container correctly by returning it in a clean condition to where you received it.

### Don't

- ✗ Don't put your needles in to any other containers, eg. Plastic food boxes
- ✗ Don't re-cap your used needles or lancets
- ✗ Don't put any other waste in this container. It is only designed to take needles and lancets
- ✗ Don't put the container in to your normal rubbish as it could cause injury
- ✗ Don't leave the container anywhere it could be easily knocked over
- ✗ Don't try to remove a needle once placed in the sharps container
- ✗ Don't fill the container past the fill line because if you over fill the container needles may begin to stick through the plastic wall and cause an injury to someone

If you have any questions about your sharps bin or how to dispose of used needles or lancets please contact one of the Diabetes Nurse Specialists.

