

Safe Disposal of Sharps for Patients using Lancets or Pen Device Needles

It is important for patients to reduce the risk of possible adverse events in the home by using and disposing of sharps bins correctly. They should not return used sharps bins for disposal to the practice or pharmacy as there is a risk of blood contamination through 'dirty bins' and risk of sharp's injury if the bin is overfilled or the lid not secured correctly.

Local councils have a responsibility to collect clinical waste and sharps and containers should be collected and disposed of according to National guidance in line with the [EU Council Directive 2010/32/EU](#) which is summarised well in the guidance provided by Sharpsafe: <https://www.sharpsafe.co.uk/standards/eu-directive/>

Advice for Patients

Proper disposal and personal responsibility for the safe disposal of sharps must be taught to patients if they are blood glucose monitoring or using an injectable therapy. Patients should be informed of the following:

1. Sharps of any description should not be disposed of into the public/household refuse system
2. Not to overfill sharps bins
3. Ensure the outside of the sharps bin is kept clean and there is no blood contamination
4. Ensure that the lid is on firmly and the top of the lid is closed securely before collection
5. Contact Local Council Waste Services to arrange collection

Our Responsibility

1. To ensure your patient completes a council 'Healthcare Waste Collection Referral form' when requesting a collection for the first time. This form can be downloaded from council website or downloaded and provided by you.
2. Forms MUST be signed or practice stamped before collection can be authorised by the council.
3. To ensure the patient has the contact details of their council's waste collection service. This should include telephone number and website where patients can download the collection form.

If this is a new policy for your practice, [click here](#) for a template that may be useful to give to your patients.

Links to the local council waste collection webpages where waste collection forms can be found:

- [Aylesbury Vale District Council](#)
- [Chiltern and Wycombe Join Waste Services](#)