

**Only return clean, locked bins – no blood splashes.**

Complete the label before giving to your GP Practice. They will make sure that the sharps bin is:

- closed,
- labelled correctly, and clean.

## Where do I take any unused medicines that contain a sharp and / or a filled sharps bin?

Please return both of these to your GP Practice for safe disposal but not to a community pharmacy who cannot accept them.

## How can I get a new sharps bin?

You can get a new sharps bin by making a request to your GP Practice who will issue you with a prescription. You can take this prescription to your usual Pharmacy who will order and supply you with a sharps bin.

## What size sharps bin do I need?

A **1 litre sharps bin** is most suitable for those who are testing their blood glucose and have **lancets** or a **short course of injections** to dispose of.

A **5 litre sharps bin** is most suitable for those who have **lancets, insulin pen needles, syringes** and **insulin pump tubing & cannulas** to dispose of.

## What colour sharps bin do I need?

Sharps bins are made in a range of colour coded lids and labels which indicate the type of waste that is inside.

**Yellow Lids** are for sharps which are contaminated with medicines.

**Purple Lids** are for sharps contaminated with cytotoxic medicines. It is important that you dispose of sharps in the correct colour sharps bin as per the Department of Health waste management regulations.

**If you have any questions, please ask your Specialist Nurse.**



# Sharps Disposal Patient Information Leaflet

You have been given a sharps bin for you to safely dispose of used needles, syringes, lancets called 'sharps' in your home.

This leaflet contains helpful hints on how you can do this safely.

**It is your responsibility to safely dispose of sharps and your sharps bin.**

## Why do I need a Sharps bin?

You need to dispose (get rid) of your used needles, syringes and lancets (called 'sharps') in a sharps bin as they can **injure** people and carry **infections**.



## Sharps Bins

Sharps bins are specially designed yellow containers. You can get small and large sharps bins. The large bins come with a lid that **must** be attached securely before using the bin.

### Do

**Do** only use a sharps bin to get rid of your 'sharps' which include:

- needles,
- syringes,
- lancets,
- insulin pump tubing,
- cannulas & cannula insertion devices,
- used blood thinning medicines e.g. Enoxaparin syringes,
- used diabetes medicines e.g. Glucagon Like Peptide -1 pens (GLP-1)



**Do** use a needle clipper - if recommended by a health professional. (Needle clippers are available on prescription.)

**Do** keep sharps bins in a safe place and out of reach of children & pets.

**Do** store the sharps bins in a cupboard and keep away from food.

**Do** use the temporary closure on the lid after each use, as this prevents the contents spilling when it is not in use.

**Do** get a sharps bin from your Vet if you need one to dispose of sharps used in pet care.

## Don't

**Don't** put your used needles, syringes and lancets in any other container such as drinks cans or used plastic food containers.



**Don't** put any other waste in the sharps bin i.e.

- cotton wool balls,
- test strips,
- finished insulin pen devices. In general, these can be disposed of as household waste provided that the needle has been removed.

**Don't** put the sharps bin out with your household waste.

**Don't** try to remove a needle or lancet from the sharps bin.

**Don't** force sharps into a full bin by pushing down with your hands.

**Don't** fill the sharps bin so that it is too heavy to lift.

**Don't** keep your sharps bins in use for longer than 3 months. It should be exchanged regardless of how full it is.

**Don't** fill the container past the dotted black fill line.



## When the sharps bin reaches the dotted black fill line.

### 1. Lock

Close the opening to **permanent closure**.

### 2. Complete the Label

Write your **GP Practice**, your **name**, and **date started**.

