

These must be disposed of as soon as possible and never left lying on work surfaces, trays or benches, many injuries that have led to concern have involved puncture wounds caused by used needles. All items must be disposed of into a yellow sharps box.

Disposal of Cannulas

Sterile cannulas

You must never attempt to re-sheath an unused sterile cannula that has been removed from its packing. It must be disposed of into a yellow sharps box.

Used cannulas

These must be disposed of as soon as possible and never left lying on work surfaces, trays or benches, many injuries that have led to concern have involved puncture wounds caused by used cannula. All items must be disposed of into yellow sharps boxes.

Disposal of microtome blades

These must be disposed of into yellow sharps boxes when they are no longer required.

Disposal of slides or cover slips

Slides or cover slips must be disposed of into yellow sharps boxes when they are no longer required.

Disposal of giving sets

The pointed end must be cut off and disposed of in a yellow sharps box. The fluid bag can be emptied into a sink and then disposed of in an Orange bag if it only contained Saline or Glucose.

Disposal of Scalpel blades

You must never attempt to put a scalpel blade back in its packet even if it has not been used. The blades must be disposed of in a yellow sharps box.

Care must be taken when removing blades from the handle of the scalpel if they have been used. The blades must be disposed of in a yellow sharps box.

Dealing with accidents

Needles

Sterile needles

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Ask for or contact a first aider to obtain advice if the wound is deep.

Contaminated needles

In the first instance, encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Ask for or contact a first aider to obtain advice.

If the needle was contaminated with human or animal blood or tissue either contact Occupational Health on extension 1661 / 1662 / 1663 or visit Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing and let them know what has happened stating whether the contamination was from screened or unscreened human blood or from an infected or un-infected animal. You may need to be accompanied to Accident and Emergency or Occupational Health if the wound is deep

Cannulas

Sterile cannulas

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Ask or contact a first aider to obtain advice if the wound is deep or bleeding profusely.

Contaminated cannulas

In the first instance, encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Ask for or contact a first aider to obtain advice.

If the needle was contaminated with human or animal blood or tissue either contact Occupational Health on extension 1661 / 1662 / 1663 or visit Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing and let them know what has happened stating whether the contamination was from screened or unscreened human blood or from an infected or un-infected animal. You may need to be accompanied to Accident and Emergency.

Microtome blades

Unused blades

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. If the wound appears to be deep or is bleeding profusely ask for a first aider to assist you. You may need to attend Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing.

Used blades

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. If the wound appears to be deep or is bleeding profusely ask for a first aider to assist you.

If the blade was contaminated with human or animal tissue either contact Occupational Health on extension 1661 / 1662 / 1663 or visit Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing and let them know what has happened stating whether the contamination was from screened or unscreened human tissue or from an infected or un-infected animal.

Slides and cover slips

Unused slides and cover slips

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Check to see that no fragments of glass are left in the wound prior to using a plaster. It would be advisable to ask for a first aider to assist you.

If the wound appears to be deep or is bleeding profusely ask for a first aider to assist you. You may need to attend Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing.

Used slides and cover slips

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Check to see that no fragments of glass are left in the wound prior to using a plaster. It would be advisable to ask for a first aider to assist you.

If the slide or cover slip was contaminated with human or animal tissue either contact Occupational Health on extension 1661 / 1662 / 1663 or visit Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing and let them know what has happened stating whether the contamination was from screened or unscreened human tissue or from an infected or un-infected animal.

Giving sets

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. If the wound appears to be deep or is bleeding profusely ask for a first aider to assist you.

Scalpels

Sterile scalpels

Encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Ask or contact a first aider to obtain advice if the wound is deep.

Contaminated scalpels

In the first instance, encourage the wound to bleed briefly, then wash under the tap with running water and then cover with a plaster. Ask for or contact a first aider to obtain advice.

If the scalpel was contaminated with human or animal blood or tissue either contact Occupational Health on extension 1661 / 1662 / 1663 or visit Accident and Emergency in St. James Wing and let them know what has happened stating whether the contamination was from screened or unscreened human blood or from an infected or un-infected animal. You may need to be accompanied to Accident and Emergency or Occupational Health if the wound is deep

Accident recording

After obtaining treatment you must complete an accident / incident form. The form is available at this [link](#).