

Occupational health guide for NIAS
staff

What to do if you have a splash/sharps injury



Belfast Health and
Social Care Trust

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Immediate First Aid

Sharp injury

- Wash liberally with warm water and soap (not antiseptic)
- Encourage bleeding (should not be sucked!!)
- Dry and cover with plaster

Splash (exposure to eyes, nose or mouth)

- Irrigate area for at least 5 minutes
- Do not remove contacts until irrigation complete

Ongoing follow up

- **ALL** incidents must be reported to Occupational Health **regardless of time of the day.**
- Occupational Health can be contacted for sharps/splash injuries via:
- Sharps helpline 028 9615 2255
- Completion of MS Form accessed via the QR code

Sharps and splash injuries are self referrals – do not ask your line manger to refer you to OH. This will result in a delay for follow up by OH.





In Hours

Monday –Friday between 8am and 4pm (excluding bank holidays)

- You must contact the OH team as previously described. OH will arrange further follow up as required.
- You must advise EOC who will facilitate downtime while you contact OH / are assessed in ED. Staff must remain in regular contact with EOC throughout.
- Ensure your line manger is aware
- Complete Datix reporting




Out of Hours

- Contact OH leaving either a voicemail (with your contact details) or completing the MS form via the QR code. The OH nursing team will contact you the next working day.
- Advise EOC who will facilitate downtime while you contact OH / are assessed in ED. Staff must remain in regular contact with EOC throughout.
- Book on in ED who will provide immediate support in the form of risk assessment, take bloods if required or prescribe prophylaxis.
- Ask ED staff to complete the MS form with details the treatment YOU received- it is available on the QR code on the sharps poster
- **ED staff will not provide on-going support or advice – this is the function of the OH team.**

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- Sharps poster must be displayed in all stations and welfare facilities.
 - Available on the IPC resource under additional resources.



Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
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Step by step guide to managing Sharps and blood and body fluid exposure (BBFEs)

Sharps and BBFE's include injuries with needles or other sharp medical instruments, which could pierce or cut the skin.

Some risks can be associated with scratches/bites, splashes with blood or hazardous body fluids into the eyes or mucous membranes (mouth/eyes/nose) or onto broken skin (e.g rash/wound).

First Aid

- ✓ Liberally wash site under running water
- ✓ Squeeze site gently
- ✓ Do not use antiseptic soap
- ✓ Do not suck
- ✓ Dry and cover with plaster


If in eyes, irrigate with saline for at least 5 minutes

Complete a self referral. Access and complete care pathway using QR code:



Report injury to Station Officer or on call officer if out of hours

If high risk or unknown source and attending ED ensure form completed by attending clinician for YOUR treatment



You must contact **Occupational Health Sharps line** on **028 9615 2255** and report injury. (Leave voicemail if out of hours and OH nurse will call back the next working day). If you have not received a call by 2pm the next working day call sharps line back. Please ensure a Datix is completed.



Points to remember

- **Prevention is better than cure:**
- Manage sharps safely
- Do not resheath needles
- Do not overfill sharps containers
- Wear face and eye protection if there is a risk of splash
- Always report any sharps or splash incidents to OH directly, your line manager and via Datix.

Points of contact

- Suzie McCullagh is the contact for NIAS OH if need assistance during normal working hours.
- suzie.mccullagh@belfasttrust.hscni.net
- **PLEASE DO NOT REPORT SHARPS VIA THIS EMAIL**
- **Do not send urgent queries to this email.**

