

NASHiCS Survey 2018

Safer Sharps in Social Care

Q1 Are you aware of the Safer Sharps regulations – ‘Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013?’

- Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	67.86% 19
No	28.57% 8
Not Sure	3.57% 1
Total Respondents:	28
Comments (6)	

- A review of the regulations was completed by our health and safety team.
- My organisation previously had no requirement to use Sharps
- I know that it applies to both health and care sectors. However, residential care does not use sharps. But service users can use sharps (diabetics), which they can leave not safely disposed and staff can get pricked.
- I heard about it some time ago but nothing recently
- I read up on this subject when the Regulations came out, but have not considered them since as I was advised that the restriction to healthcare employers meant that they did not relate to our area of work.
- This could be something that is highlighted at a meeting of NASHiCS

Q2 Have you put into practice any of the requirements of the Safer Sharps regulations?

- Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses –
Yes	57.14% 16
No (Please comment)	28.57% 8
Not sure	14.29% 4
Total Respondents:	28
Comments (11)	

- We do not have services that use Sharps
- The level of care provided by the Council does not include the use of sharps. Health care is provided by other agencies and not our staff directly.
- Where we now require the use of sharps due to a service users medical condition we have had to look at the Regs
- Training on sharps and pros and cons of vaccination included in induction and annual update. Leaflet and poster of sharp safety produced. Needle free equipment/safer sharps to be used wherever possible.
- We only cover residential care, so any sharps would be used by a District Nurse.
- We think our existing procedures meet the requirements
- Doesn't apply to my role at the moment but could do in the near future due to the expanding role of care staff.
- No. I was advised that the restriction to healthcare employers meant that the Regulations did not relate to our area of work.
- None of our services use sharps currently although this is something we are looking to include in our policies and procedures.
- Indirectly following HSE guidance and Industry standards
- I am aware that in some of our care homes, non-retractable needles are still in use. This is old stock.

Q3 Please could you briefly say what you have changed or initiated?

- Answered: 26 Skipped: 2

Showing **26** responses

- N/A
- I have updated my sharps presentation to suit
- We will familiarise ourselves with the regulations.
- N/A
- staff training from local NHS Diabetes nurses observed staff practice use of sharps box risk assessment
- Sharps policy updated and presented through Toolbox talks. Made known that any incident involving Sharps require immediate hospital attention (24hr injection for broken skin).
- see Q2
- nothing
- It became part of our infection control policy
- n/a
- Nothing as wasn't aware of these. But we have safe practices, supported by health professionals.
- Not applicable right now
- Nothing
- Higher awareness of sharps injuries in my own practice.
- Staff training / re-training Guarded injectors More readily available sharps containers Post incident procedures
- Use of retractable needles
- New sharps policy and procedure
- Really just checked our sharps policy and ensured it met the requirements, which it seems to
- Review of policy to be implemented
- We ensure that all needles used are the ones with the safety mechanism to ensure user safety
- good practice
- Policy and guidance change. For example, not to re-sheath a needle. Obtain sharps bins etc...

- We have a policy for Sharps and have a flow chart for all staff to follow explaining to them who to report issue to and where to get medical assistance.
- retractable needles and formal sharps training
- use safe sharps where possible
- I am not exactly sure as I've don't get involved in this area. I am aware that we do not display posters in the Nurse stations. Safer sharps (retractable) are in use but not 100% throughout the group.

Q4 Which Area(s) of Social Care do you work in (mark all that apply)

- Answered: 22 Skipped: 6

Answer Choices –	Responses –
Care Homes - Residential	63.64% 14
Care Homes - Nursing	31.82% 7
Care Homes - Learning difficulties	63.64% 14
Home Care	72.73% 16
Specialised Housing	54.55% 12
Supervisory/ Management	36.36% 8
Total Respondents:	22
Comments (8)	

- HMO - Hostel
- health and safety
- Respite Care
- Health & Safety Manager
- I am independent care trainer / consultant
- Event First Aid & Ambulance Support
- day services
- consultant

Q5 How many needle stick or sharps injuries have you had or are aware of in your organisation over the last twelve months?

- Answered: 28 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices –	Responses –
None	50.00% 14
1-5	39.29% 11
over 5	10.71% 3
Total Respondents:	28
Comments (1)	

- Only 1 in 2014

Q6 Has this number been affected at all by the introduction of any practices from the Safer Sharps regulations?

- Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices –	Responses –
Reduced the Number	18.52% 5
No change despite Regulations	44.44% 12
N/A	37.04% 10
Total Respondents	27
Comments (6)	

- Possibly reduced the number as more awareness has been introduced.
- I am aware of 2 sharps injuries, but not in the past 12 months. 1. Service User was moving blood test lancet and inadvertently jabbed staff. 2. Staff tidying Service User's house jabbed hand with needle covered over.

- Not at this time applicable to me
- We have very occasional issue with diabetic's needles in the past and also with district nurses leaving needles around, which we have made formal complaints, but in the last year nothing.
- We have only had two incidents over the last 7 years. So it's unclear if the Regs have had an effect on Social Care
- I am unsure of the previous year's numbers within our organisation.

Q7 Do you use "conventional" sharps equipment? (By which we mean sharps are the older types of equipment used to inject or make incisions in skin etc., that are typically covered by a removable sheath and disposed of without re-sheathing.)

- Answered: 27 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	40.74% 11
No	59.26% 16
Total Respondents	27
Comments (11)	

- injection of insulin
- As per medical requirement
- We encourage homes to use safer sharps i.e. retractable needles
- Sharps not used
- Sometimes I use lancets but they are safe to use.
- There are occasionally health professionals in services who use this equipment, but none of our staff would.
- We do not provide that type of service
- Unsure
- Staff don't use the sharps themselves. Staff in our services come across them in customer's homes. Conventional style sharps are seen by staff.
- only a few
- I found the wording of the question confusing?

Q8 Do you use "Safer" Sharps equipment? (By which we mean those sharps which have been re-engineered to provide a retractable needle or blade which reduces the exposure to the sharp instrument.)

- Answered: 23 Skipped: 5

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	73.91% 17
No	26.09% 6
Total Respondents	23
Comments (10)	

- Where people we support are self-medicating we are encouraging safer sharps equipment to be utilized.
- in epi-pens for anaphylaxis
- As per medical requirement
- ditto
- Not applicable to us
- Yes occasionally I use lancets for finger prick testing
- N/A
- Support is given to people to take their prescribed medication, and some services hold rescue medication.
- This is down to the medical professionals and is not something we have control over.
- Some yes and some no.

