

# NEEDLES AND SHARPS AWARENESS

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

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Our Needles and Sharps e-learning course teaches you how to use and dispose of sharps safely. It provides you with an understanding of the risks associated with sharps use, as well as what practices you should avoid and the actions you should take in the event of an accident.

This course explains the best practice guidelines for the safe use and disposal of sharps equipment in the medical sector. With this knowledge, you'll be able to safely carry out your duties while being able to maintain a high standard of safety and minimise the cases of sharps-related injuries.

### **Module One: What are Sharps?**

The first module of this course defines what sharps are and outlines the risks associated with sharps injuries to both the injured individual and the business. It helps the learner to understand what blood-borne viruses are and explains the emotional and physical impacts that an injury can lead to.

- What are sharps?
- What is a sharps injury?
- Who is at risk of a sharps injury?
- When do most sharps injuries occur?
- What are the main risks associated with sharps injuries?
- What biological agents could employees be exposed to?
- What risks could these pose to an individual?
- Facts about needlestick injuries.

### **Module Two: Sharps and the Law**

The second module is designed to help you understand the legal responsibilities that healthcare employers have to protect their workers from sharps-related injuries, the duties placed on employees and the consequences of not complying with the law.

- Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013
- Employer and employee responsibilities
- Reasonably practicable
- Other key sharps-related legislation
- Protecting workers
- Risk assessments

### **Module Three: Safe Use of Needles and Sharps**

In module three, you learn about the main 'bad behaviours' that result in needlestick injuries, as well as understanding the 'best practice' guidelines for safe sharps usage and the actions you should take if you are involved in a sharps-related accident.

- When do most sharps injuries occur?
- Best practices for sharps use
- Hand hygiene
- Hand hygiene and PPE
- Practices that increase accidents
- Don'ts of sharps use
- Reporting a sharps injury
- Safer sharps

### **Module Four: Safe Disposal of Sharps**

The last module details the way you must segregate your sharps waste in accordance with UK guidelines, as well as helping you to identify ways that you can minimise your sharps waste and reduce your environmental impact.

- Waste stream segregation
- Regulatory bodies
- Implementing waste segregation systems
- Sharps boxes
- Recapping a needle
- Disposing of sharps
- Disposing of a sharps box

## Aims of the Training

By the end of this course, you will:

- Understand the risks posed by unsafe practices when using sharps.
- Know who is at risk of sharps exposure.
- Be aware of when workers might encounter sharps.
- Know how to safely handle and dispose of sharps using best practices.
- Understand the legal duties relating to the safe use of sharps.
- Know what actions to take in the event of a sharps-related accident.