

De La Salle College



PROCEDURES FOR USAGE, DISPOSAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SHARPS BIN AND PROCEDURS TO BE FOLLOWED IN EVENT OF A NEEDLE STICK INJURY

Compiled by: The Head Master	Date: October 2015
Policy Holder: Ms Karen Wall	Revision date: October 2017

Some students at De La Salle College may have medical conditions that necessitate them using blood glucose testing devices or hypodermic needles. Such equipment is held securely in the medical room and used only under the supervision of a qualified first aider.

The used devices and needles are then placed into an approved UN/BS (United Nations/British Standard) Sharps Container by the user – under the supervision of a qualified first aider.

On very rare occasions children or staff may injure themselves on discarded used blood glucose testing device or hypodermic needle, ** which they have found. As well as ensuring that the victim gets any necessary care, it is important that the needle gets disposed of safely to avoid the same thing happening to others. If a discarded needle and/or syringe is found, it should be carefully placed into the approved UN/BS (United Nations/British Standard) Sharps container.

The approved UN/BS Sharps Container at De La Salle College is lid tight and located in a locked cupboard in the medical room – ground floor – Administration Building.

Before it reaches its capacity it is carefully placed into a chemical waste bag – also kept in the medical room – and taken to Reid's Pharmacy, Five Oaks. On a weekly basis, Reid's Pharmacy take any such items for disposal to the incinerator where the contents for disposal are recorded.

A replacement approved UN/BS Sharps Container will be put in the medical room cupboard for future use.

** De La Salle College will inform the police immediately should any discarded needles/syringes be found on or in the vicinity of the premises.

Procedures in the event of needle stick injury.

If someone pricks or stabs themselves with a **used** hypodermic needle:

1. First Aider ensures protective gloves are worn.
2. Gently bleed (milk) the wound – DO NOT suck or lick the wound
3. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and running water
4. Cover it with a waterproof dressing
5. Record it in the Accident Book
6. **Seek immediate medical advice** from the Emergency Department at Jersey General Hospital about the possible need for immunisations (e.g. hepatitis B or C) or for treatment if the wound becomes infected.

There have been no documented cases of people acquiring HIV, Hepatitis B or C from discarded needles. Nevertheless, Hepatitis B immunisation and monitoring is recommended for these incidents so it is important to seek immediate medical advice.

