



# Risk Assessment

## Clinical Waste and Sharps Boxes Risk Assessment

Location: Surgeries and clinical environments

Date: 18/8/25

Persons affected: Spotless staff, client and/or client staff, members of the public

Risk Assessment carried out by Peter Hill

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hill', written in a cursive style.

### Emergency contact details

In the event of an emergency contact the office on 01283 599219. If you do not receive a response call Peter Hill on 07725 349613 immediately. If Peter is not available call Lisa Hill on 07498753530.

# 1. Hazard Identification

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Who Might Be Harmed</b>	<b>How</b>
Needle-stick injury from sharps boxes	Cleaning staff	Puncture wounds, blood-borne infection risk (HIV, Hep B/C)
Contact with infectious waste	Cleaning staff, patients, surgery staff	Exposure to pathogens from contaminated materials
Spillage of clinical waste	Cleaning staff, others	Contamination of surfaces, infection risk
Lack of training / PPE use	Cleaning staff	Improper handling, increased exposure to risks

# 2. Existing Controls in Place

- Staff trained in infection control procedures and sharps awareness.
- Sharps boxes are sealed by trained staff only
- Clinical waste bags are securely tied and not overfilled
- Appropriate PPE issued and worn: gloves (nitrile), apron, face mask (if needed).
- Use of designated clinical waste bins and secure storage area
- Waste collection follows HTM 07-01 and local NHS Trust guidelines
- Incident reporting procedure in place for spills or injuries

### 3. Risk Rating (Before Controls)

Hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating (L x S)
Needle-stick injury	3 (Possible)	5 (Major)	15 (High)
Infectious waste contact	3	4 (Severe)	12 (High)
Spillage	2 (Unlikely)	3	6 (Medium)

### 4. Additional Controls Needed

Action Required	By Whom	By When
Reinforce rule: only trained staff handle sharps boxes	Site manager / Supervisor	Immediately
Ensure clinical waste bags are always double-bagged and tied securely	All staff	Ongoing
Refresh PPE and infection control training annually	Manager	Recurring annual reminder
Provide spill kits and training in spill response	Supervisor	Recurring annual reminder
Regular auditing of clinical waste areas	Supervisor	Monthly

### 5. Risk Rating (After Controls)

Hazard	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating
Needle-stick injury	1 (Rare)	5	5 (Low)
Infectious waste contact	2	4	8 (Medium)
Spillage	1	3	3 (Low)

## 6. Emergency Procedures

- Needle-stick injury: Follow NHS needle-stick protocol – wash wound, report to manager, seek immediate medical attention.
- Spill: Use spill kit. Evacuate area if necessary. Report and clean according to infection control procedures.
- Exposure to clinical waste: Remove contaminated clothing, wash affected area, report incident.

Likelihood		Severity		Priority	
1	Highly Unlikely	1	Trivial	1	Urgent action - (Risk no 15 - 25)
2	Unlikely	2	Minor Injury	2	High priority - (Risk no 10 - 12)
3	Possible	3	Over 3 day injury	3	Medium Priority - (Risk no 5 - 9)
4	Probable	4	Major injury	4	Low Priority - (Risk no 2 - 4)
5	Certain	5	Incapacity or Death	5	Very Low Priority - no action required (Risk no 1)