



Your Validation

Questions

- Give 5 ways you can reduce the risk of a sharps injury?
- What should you do if you suspect a sharps has been disposed of incorrectly?
- Explain the procedure you should follow if you have a sharps injury?

Putting what you've learnt into practice

REMEMBER

- THE RISK OF SHARPS INJURY CAN BE REDUCED BY YOUR ACTIONS.

For further support

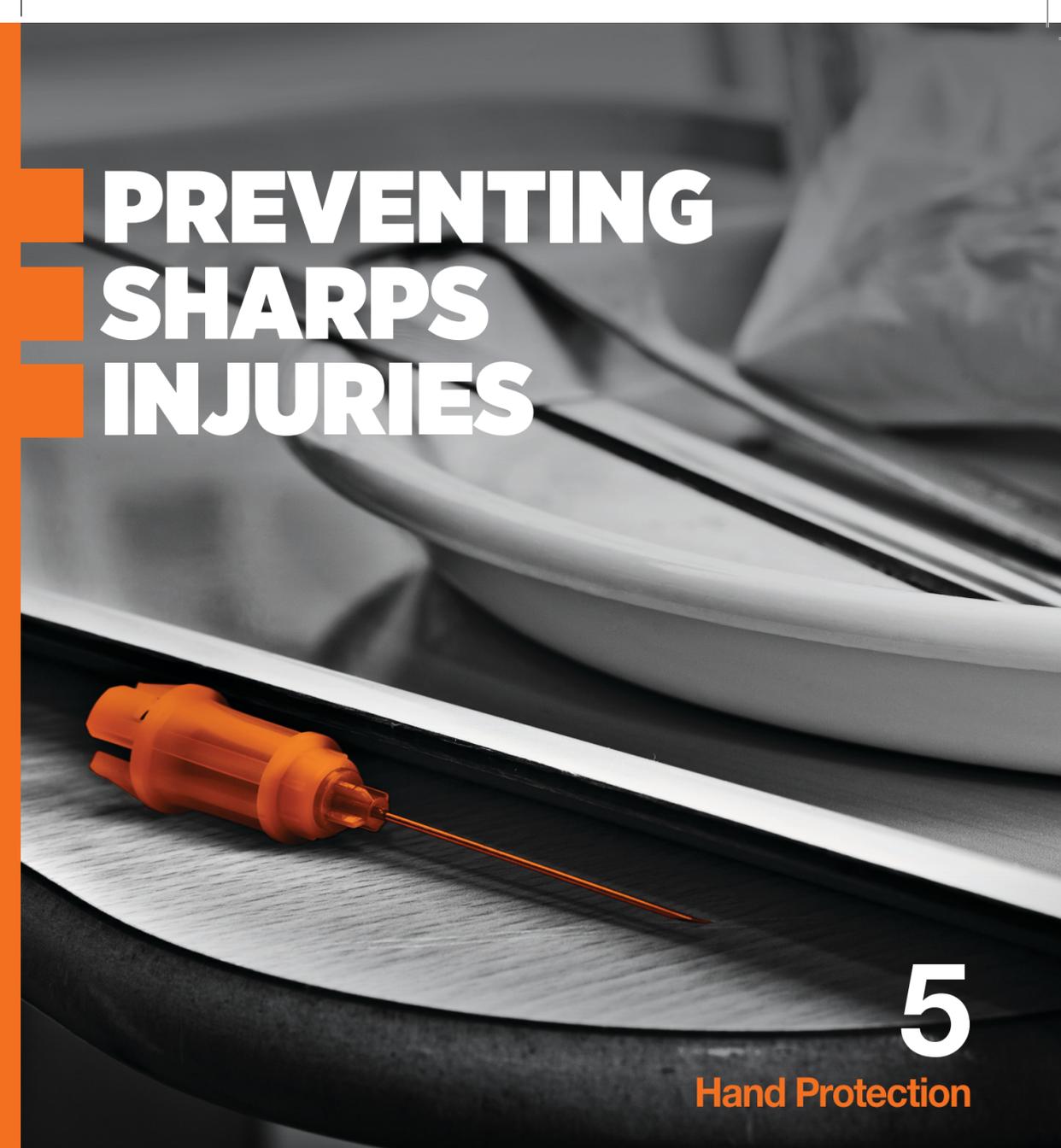
To support this training, please refer to the following;

- Safety First posters and information displayed in your unit
- See also: www.mycompasshse.co.uk/138.htm Risk Assessments in the Compass HSE website and view specific mandatory, commonly used and catering risk assessments.

Compass HSE website
www.mycompasshse.co.uk
www.mycompasshse.ie

HSE Helpdesk HSE Out of Hours HSE Fax
0121 457 5194 0121 457 5370 0121 457 5383

PREVENTING SHARPS INJURIES



5
Hand Protection

What you're going to learn

In this Safety Conversation you will learn about the main causes of sharps injuries in our business and how to prevent them. Taking part in this Safety Conversation demonstrates good safety behaviours; you will be able to:



FOLLOW RULES

and use the right procedures to stay safe



BE MINDFUL

of the risks of sharps injuries



SPEAK OUT

to check understanding and to report incidents



GET INVOLVED

and talk about safety issues

Following this Safety Conversation, you will:

- Be aware of the main causes of sharps injuries in our business
- Be clear about the things you can do to avoid sharps injuries

What you need to know

The most common sharps injuries happen when medical sharps are disposed incorrectly.

Q. Ask the group to give examples of different types of sharps they may know?

- Needles
- Catheters
- Scalpels
- Pieces of bone or teeth
- Sharp bits of plastic, glass or metal

We don't use medical sharps within our business, but unfortunately we sometimes come in contact with them due to the duties we carry out.

These can be found:

- Discarded on the floor and may be covered or wrapped in tissue or other cover
- Discarded in a waste bag instead of a sharps bin
- Left on a meal tray

What are the risks?

- Infection including blood borne Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV
- Cuts and puncture wounds
- Psychological stress due to the injury infection risk

How to protect yourself?

- Concentrate when carrying out tasks in which you may come in contact with discarded sharps
- When removing a food tray be observant and show caution when removing items off the tray
- When removing bin bags from a waste bag holder hold the bag away from your body – visually checking for any sharps puncturing the bag or straining against the bag
- Use the waste bag trolley to transport the bag – never carry against your legs
- Never push down on the waste bag – if it has been overfilled and can not be tied securely inform the department manager
- When removing rubbish from the floor show caution as rubbish may conceal sharps – use appropriate equipment to remove to sharps bin
- Never leave the rubbish – someone else may get hurt
- Wear any sharps resistant gloves you have been provided
- Never handle sharps directly with your hands
- Report any near misses or any concerns to you manager so this can be addressed with the client staff

What do you need to do if you receive a sharps injury?

- Gently squeeze wound to make it bleed – this will help limit the chances of infection entering your blood circulation
- Do not suck on the wound – you don't know what the sharps may have contained or been in contact with so be sure not to ingest any blood or other contaminants
- Wash the wound under running water
- Report the accident immediately to your supervisor – This will ensure emergency procedures are followed and correct medical attention given and an investigation can start to prevent reoccurrence
- Attend A&E as soon as possible

