



Be Sharps Safe

- **63%** of respondents to an RCN survey said they had received **AT LEAST ONE SHARPS INJURY** during their careers with **15%** experiencing an injury in the previous year.ⁱ
- A sharps injury can lead to a **SERIOUS INFECTION** and cause **stress and anxiety**.ⁱⁱ
- Sharps injuries should **NEVER** be accepted as part of the job.

Key employer responsibilities

- **Assess** the risk of sharps injuries
- **Prevent** sharps injuries occurring for example, providing safety engineered devices and training on use
- **Investigate** reports of sharps injuries to identify root causes

Key nursing staff responsibilities

- **Follow** your employer's policies and procedures for safe use and disposal of sharps
- **Report** all sharps injuries
- **Seek** prompt specialist advice following a sharps injury

If you have concerns about sharps safety in your work environment, contact the RCN or speak to your RCN Safety Representative.



For more information read the RCN's guidance on sharps safety



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ⁱ RCN (2020) Blood and Body Fluid Exposure 2020

ⁱⁱ HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (2022) Health and social care services - Sharps injuries (hse.gov.uk)