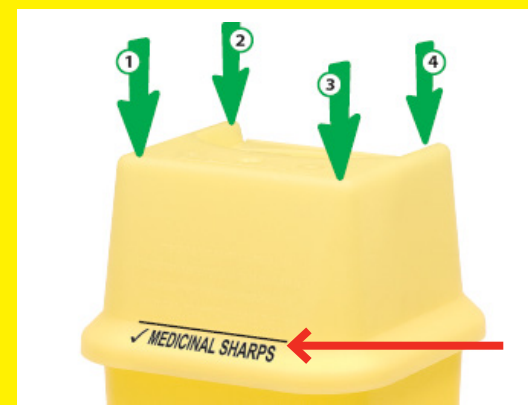


# Care home advice for prevention and first aid for sharps injuries and splash incidents



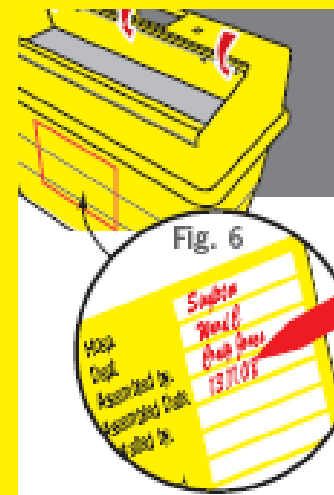
## How to prevent a sharps injury

- ✓ **Always** use sharp safety devices where possible
- ✓ **Always** dispose of sharps at point of use into a designated sharps bin
- ✓ **Always** practice standard infection control precautions
- ✗ **Never** re-sheath needles or detach a needle from a syringe before disposal - you are risking a sharps injury
- ✗ **Never** pass used sharps between colleagues - the user of the sharp is responsible for the disposal
- ✗ **Never** clean up sharps used by colleagues / the patient
- ✗ **Never** over fill a sharps bin



**Don't fill above the line**

**Segregation at 'point of use'**  
- correct waste segregation reduces the risk of needlestick injuries



## What to do if a sharps injury / splash occurs

- ✓ **Encourage** puncture site bleeding immediately
- ✓ **Wash** puncture site thoroughly with soap and warm water. Cover with water proof dressing
- ✓ **Splashes** to eyes (after first removing contact lenses), broken skin or mouth should be washed immediately and liberally with water (do not swallow the water)
- ✓ **Inform** your manager and complete a risk assessment as soon as possible and in accordance of your care home policy
- ✓ **Contact** your occupational health service / GP immediately for further advice and risk assessment measures  
For out of hours contact A&E immediately
- ✓ **Refer** to your care home policy for further information and complete an incident form