



### Written By

Narelle Myers

### Aim

The Preschool will minimise risk of accidental injury and transmission of blood borne infections by safe handling, use and disposing of needles and sharps that have been contaminated by blood or body fluids.

### Explanation

Injury or puncture of the skin by a needle or sharp material contaminated by blood or body fluid is a risk for transmission of blood borne infections such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. NSW Department of Health has published guidelines on safe handling, use and disposing of needles and sharps. In caring for children with chronic illness such as asthma, diabetes and epilepsy, and in managing acute severe allergic or anaphylaxis reactions, Pre School staff need to be trained to know how to safely handle, use and dispose of needles, syringes and other sharps.

### Practices

To minimise the risk of accidental injury and transmission of blood borne infections by safe handling, use and disposing of needles and sharps that have been contaminated by blood or body fluids, staff will:

- Ensure only First Aid Qualified staff will handle, use and dispose of needles and sharps
- Ensure there are adequate and accessible resources for disposal of sharps, and which comply with Australian Standards:
- AS/NZS 4261: 'Reusable Containers for the Collection of Sharp Medical Items Used in Human and Animal Applications' ,
- AS 4031: 'Non Reusable Containers for the Collection of Sharp Medical Items Used in Health care Areas'.
- Dispose of needles, syringes and sharps immediately after use by discarding directly into an impermeable and puncture resistant container designated for disposal of sharps (there are commercially available yellow biohazard containers) that comply with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4261 (reusable containers) or AS 4031 (non-reusable containers).
- Inform the Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person immediately of any sharps injury. Apply first aid as required.

### Resources & References

Children Services NSW "Model Policies & Practices"  
Community Child Care Co-operative "Food Allergies & Anaphylaxis"

### Date Adopted:

January 2017

### Review Date:

January 2020