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# Needle Stick Injuries Review

# Situation

From 01/06/19 to 31/05/21

- 221 'contact with sharps' incidents have been reported.
- Significantly higher numbers are occurring in patients' homes
- Incidents affecting Facilities staff are generally due to unsafe disposal of sharps.

Patient's Home	23
Accident & Emergency Department (GGH)	8
Hotel Services	6
Towy Ward	6
Ward 5 (PPH)	6
Intensive Care Unit (GGH)	5
Labour Ward / Delivery Room	5
Theatre (GGH)	5
Acute Medical Assessment Unit	4
Emergency & Urgent Care Centre	4
Meddygfa Sarn (MHB)	4
Minor Injuries Unit	4
Outpatients Department	4
Phlebotomy	4
Podiatry Department	4
Ward 4 (PPH)	4
Ward 9 (PPH)	4

# Situation

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 **43** 'contact with sharps' incidents have been reported.

Of the 43 only 5 incidents were reported as used/contaminated.

7 reported from the vaccination centres but only 2 confirmed as used/contaminated.

# Risks and Mitigation

A number of measures are in place to reduce the risk of injury including the following:

- Avoiding re-sheathing/re-capping.
- Availability of portable sharps containers.
- Disposing of sharps immediately at point of use.
- Disposing of sharps containers when three quarters full.
- Use of safety engineered devices.

# Risks and Mitigation (cont'd)

- Review of safety engineered devices currently taking place.
- Sharps investigation checklist has been circulated and each sharps incident is being followed up by Health and Safety Team.
- Safer Sharps Group has been re-established.
- Procurement Nurse re-appointment being considered.



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## **Environmental Risk**

Possible Exposure to Radiation/Chemicals to HSDU staff at Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)

# Situation

The Hospital Sterile Disinfection Unit (HSDU) decontaminates or sterilises reusable surgical instruments and flexible endoscopes for further patient use.

Concerns for the safety of staff working in the HSDU have been raised by the manager.

The HSDU Manager has initially sought assurance that staff are not subjected to any Ionising Radiation exposure arising from the Radiology Department, located on the floor directly beneath the HSDU facility.

# Situation

Concern has been raised by HSDU as to the integrity of the floor slab separating the Radiology department and HSDU following recent construction work.



# Action Taken

- The Radiation Protection Advisers (RPA) have provided expert advice to the HSDU management team.
- The Estates department have undertaken an inspection above ceiling height of the floor slabs paying particular attention to any penetrations.
- Occupational Health have been approached to provide advice on statistical illness data rates per population.
- Health and Safety Adviser has reviewed current COSHH arrangements and has started reviewing historic chemical usage.

# Risks and Mitigation

- Estates checked above the ceilings in all of the X-ray rooms in GGH and confirmed that no visual penetrations or defects were found in the concrete slab.
- The current COSHH compliance is satisfactory. Review of historic chemical use is currently being undertaken and will concentrate on disinfectants such as glutaraldehyde that may have been used in the past.

# Conclusions so far

- All X-ray rooms have been risk assessed for radiation hazards by the RPA in accordance with Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017. This includes structural radiation shielding requirements of the rooms to ensure X-ray dose rates in adjacent areas are compliant to ensure individuals are suitably protected.
- Following the recent inspection of the structural integrity of X-ray rooms in GGH, the shielding of the X-ray rooms has not been compromised by any modification or building work, and adjacent areas have continued to be suitably protected from hazards associated with the use of X-rays.
- Occupational Health have suggested advice be sought from Public Health Wales on the prevalence of the type of illnesses reported.