

# 8 Reasons to Report a Needlestick Injury



## 1. SWIFT MEDICAL ATTENTION

This helps you avoid delayed or inadequate medical treatment and long-term health implications. Not forgetting the emotional toll of a sharps injury, access to a counsellor or support group can also form a vital part of the medical attention you receive.

## 2. EARLY DETECTION OF BLOODBORNE INFECTIONS

This provides you with the opportunity to begin any necessary treatments as soon as possible – helping to prevent potential long-term complications including the spread of bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV.

## 3. ACCESS TO POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is a medication that can help prevent infection from bloodborne pathogens if taken within a 72-hour window of the injury.

## 4. PROTECTION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

By helping your facility understand where and why injuries are occurring, you enable them to make the necessary changes to protect your fellow healthcare workers.

## 5. IMPROVED WORKPLACE SAFETY

Identifying potential hazards and risk factors leads to improvements in workplace safety, including the implementation of safer work practices and the use of safer equipment.

## 6. PROMOTION OF A CULTURE OF SAFETY

Reporting helps to promote a “no blame, no shame” culture of safety in the workplace and can help healthcare workers feel comfortable reporting incidents and addressing safety concerns.

## 7. COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

It's a legal requirement under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) – failing to do so can result in disciplinary action and fines.

## 8. ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION

Your injury may result in lost wages or other financial losses, in which case you'll want to be eligible for compensation.

## Removing the Stigma of Reporting Sharps Injuries

**You deserve to be part of a culture of transparency and open communication around needlestick injuries – the fact is, they can happen to anyone no matter how careful they are.**

To help remove the stigma, we must all acknowledge that needlestick injuries can and do happen and that reporting them isn't a sign of incompetence or negligence.

Rather, it shows a commitment to ensuring patient and staff safety.

It's up to healthcare organisations to foster an environment that encourages reporting and provide the support and resources employees need to easily report needlestick injuries – time should never have to be a determining factor for reporting an injury.

All healthcare workers should feel confident they can report incidents without fear of retaliation, discrimination, or stigmatisation.

**Sharpsmart promotes safety and well-being for all healthcare workers.**

