

Some additional advice

If you have diabetes, used pens and cartridges (with the needle clipped off), empty insulin vials and used test strips can be disposed of in your normal household waste.

- ✗ Never share syringes or finger pricking devices.
- ✗ You should NOT re-cap needles.
- ✗ Do not store your Sharps bin on the floor or above shoulder height.
- ✗ Needles, syringes and finger-pricking devices must not be put into any domestic refuse bin/waste, or into any recycling bins.

Notes

Further information and help

For more details please contact:

Your Healthcare Team
Western Isles Hospital, Macaulay Road,
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2AF
Tel. 01851 704704

For further information about any aspect of the medicines you are taking, please contact:

- Your medical practice.
- Your community pharmacy.
- NHS24 (tel: 111 or web: www.nhs24.scot).

We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website feedback section at: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 or 07814 071868 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

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Written by: Pharmacy Department, Western Isles Hospital.
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Disclaimer

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NHS Western Isles

Safe Management of Sharps (needles)

This leaflet contains important information for you if:

- you give yourself medication using a needle
- you self-test using pinprick devices



If you use needles to inject prescribed medication or for testing your blood it is your responsibility to dispose of all needles safely.

You should only use a Sharps bin designed for this purpose.

Why should I get a Sharps bin?

A Sharps bin is the safest way to dispose of used Sharps.

You can use your Sharps bin to dispose of medical supplies such as:

- Used syringes and devices which have a needle attached.
- Used finger pricking devices.
- Used insulin pump sharps.
- Full needle clipping devices, etc.

Using your Sharps bin

- Ensure the lid is securely attached.
- After you have used needles or other similar medical supplies, put them into the Sharps bin straight away. Do not try to take them out again.
- Bins must only be filled to the black line marked on the bin.
- While your Sharps bin is in use or waiting to be taken to your local exchange point, keep it in a safe place so that it's not a risk to other people and out of the reach of children.
- Close the temporary closure on the lid when it is not in use.

What to do when your bin is full

- ✓ **WHEN** the container is filled to the black line close the lid until you hear it "click". This means it is locked.
- ✓ **DO** fill in your name and the date when you lock the bin.
- ✓ **DO** take care when transporting your Sharps bin.

You can exchange your full bin only if it is fully closed and signed at the following places:

- your local Community Pharmacy
- your GP surgery (please check with your surgery that this service is available first)
- your next hospital clinic appointment.

