

# **SHARPS!**



**'Sharps' are needles or other medical instruments used for healthcare work which could cause an injury by cutting or pricking the skin.**

**The main risk from a sharps injury is the potential exposure to infections (blood-borne viruses (BBV) such as;**

- **Hepatitis B (HBV)**
- **Hepatitis C (HCV)**
- **Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).**

**NEVER HANDLE DISCARDED NEEDLES AND SYRINGES WITH BARE HANDS!**

**If discovered, REPORT THEM TO CONTROL (Inner - 020 7979 3903 / Outer – 020 7979 3905) who will arrange permanent removal by a professional body or competent person. This is currently Mitie or Ambipar.**

**Guidance can be found in NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA22**

**In the event of contact with a discarded needle encourage the puncture injury to bleed and wash well under cool running water with soap and cover with a dry (sterile) dressing. Seek medical advice as soon as possible, within 48 hours at the nearest local Accident & Emergency department. Remember to report the accident to Infrastructure Fault Control.**