



Saint John of God
Community Services clg.

Kerry Services Policy 25

Percutaneous Injuries

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THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINES ST JOHN OF GOD COMMUNITY SERVICES CLG.
Kerry Services

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Percutaneous Injuries

Saint John of God Kerry Services is committed to prioritising the safety of all employees against infection with blood borne viruses. This Policy and Procedure is to be read in conjunction with the Saint John of God Services Employee Handbook under the section Hepatitis B entitled Employee Hepatitis B.

The purposes of this Policy and Procedure is to provide direction for all employees in terms of protection against infection with blood borne viruses (BBV) which may arise as a result of accidental Percutaneous injury.

This Policy and Procedure applies to all service users, staff, volunteers and visitors to Saint John of God Kerry Services.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 Percutaneous injury refers to an injury that penetrates the skin e.g. needle stick injury, bite, cut with a sharp object.
- 1.2 Venepuncture is the introduction of a needle into a vein to obtain a blood sample for haematological, biochemical or bacteriological analysis, also known as phlebotomy, venesection, drawing or taking blood.
- 1.3 A Splash incident is where the mouth, eyes or nose is splashed with bodily fluids of another person, or another agent.

2. Prevention

- 2.1 An individual risk assessment/ occupational Risk assessment may be carried out, where applicable, to protect against percutaneous injury.
- 2.2 Hand washing must be carried out in accordance with the Saint John of God Services Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure, HSE and e learning Programmes.
- 2.3 Gloves must be used in accordance with the Saint John of God Services, Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure, and in accord with all IPC training.
- 2.4 Existing Wounds, skin lesions and all breaks in exposed skin must be covered with waterproof dressings.
- 2.5 Sharps usage should be avoided where possible and where sharps usage is essential, particular care must be taken in handling and disposal as per the Policy and Procedure for the Safe Handling of Sharps.

3. Venepuncture

- 3.1 All staff engaged in Venepuncture and those who are assisting must wear appropriate protective gloves/ PPE as appropriate. Appropriate and up to date training is to be insitu for staff engaging in Venepuncture
- 3.2 Eye shields can be worn when appropriate and the risk of injury is increased.
- 3.3 Needles must never be re-sheathed in line with the Safe Handling of Sharps Policy and Procedure. Use of sharps safety device must be used. All appropriate safety precautions must be adhered to as outlined in venepuncture training.

4. Management of Percutaneous Injury Incidents

4.1 First Aid

- 4.1.1 Where a needle stick/sharps/bite injury occurs bleed the affected area by placing under warm running water. **The injured area must not be placed in the mouth.**
- 4.1.2 The injured area must be washed thoroughly with soap and warm running water and covered with a waterproof dressing.
- 4.1.3 Where a splash incident occurs the area must be rinsed with cold running water for irrigation.
- 4.1.4 Where a splash incident involves the mouth, do not swallow, rinse mouth out several times with cold water.
- 4.1.5 Where a splash incident involves the eyes, if applicable remove contact lenses and irrigate eyes well with cold running water. Please contact GP for further advice.
- 4.1.6 All injuries outlined above must be reported immediately to the relevant Supervisor.
- 4.1.7 All human bites that penetrate the skin should be closely assessed and observed for signs of infection. Please contact GP/ out of hours GP services for advice and instruction.

4.2 Needle stick Injuries, Bite Injuries and splash Injuries or other types of injury where skin is broken

- 4.2.1 It will be recommended that the injured person present to A & E/G.P. for assessment and follow up as per GP guidance.
- 4.2.2 The services of the Employee Assistance Programme will be available to staff as required.

4.3 Administration

- 4.3.1 Where a Percutaneous injury occurs an NIRF must be completed.



4.3.2 The relevant Supervisor will review/carry out the/a Risk Assessment and amend as necessary. A review of the incident may also be required based on the outcome.



SIGNATURE PAGE

I have read, understand and agree to adhere to the attached Policy and Procedure:

Print Name

Signature

Area of Work

Date

[illegible]