

## **IMPROVING SHARPS DISPOSAL FOR PATIENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Dear patient,

NHS Lothian is aware of the difficulties you experience as a patient self-administering your medications at home in disposing of your needles and other clinical waste (known as “sharps”).

We know that the ability to self-administer medications makes a huge difference to people and prevents thousands of un-necessary trips to hospitals. We also know that patients dispose of their “sharps” in different ways and that patients are getting different advice from different parts of the NHS. Some patients find it very difficult to find anywhere that will accept their “sharps”.

We aim to improve this situation, so you can dispose of your “sharps” simply, safely and as close to your home as possible.

We are asking people who use this service to help us, so that the improvements reflect real experience. NHS Lothian would be very grateful if you would take the time to complete the short attached questionnaire.

If you got the questionnaire on paper at a clinic please return it to us using the pre-paid envelope by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

If you would prefer to have an electronic copy emailed to you please email Ashley Galloway [ashley.galloway@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ashley.galloway@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) to request a copy and email your completed questionnaire back to Ashley at that address by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

If you were notified by email, social media or through a website please complete the form electronically and email it to Ashley Galloway by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

I look forward to hearing from you.



**David Small**  
**Director of Primary Care Transformation**

A group of staff have carefully considered options for improving sharps disposal. We would like you to help us choose the top options and contribute to the development of these options. Based on the description of the option and your own experiences please indicate below your favourite three options by putting **1** beside your most favourite option, **2** beside your second favourite and **3** beside your third favourite.

OPTION	NUMBER (1, 2, 3)
Community Hospital and Acute Hospital Sites – drop off at a staffed reception point at Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, St Johns in Livingston, Western General Edinburgh, East Lothian Community Hospital (Haddington), Midlothian Community Hospital (Bonnyrigg)	
Car park drop off in hospital car parks into recycle-style secure boxes e.g. Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, St Johns in Livingston, Western General Edinburgh, East Lothian Community Hospital (Haddington), Midlothian Community Hospital (Bonnyrigg)	
Return to Community Pharmacies (up to 182 locations)	
Return to Community Pharmacies already providing needle exchange service for drug misuse (there are currently 23 in Lothian – 3 in East Lothian, 2 in Midlothian, 12 in Edinburgh, 5 in West Lothian)	
Various NHS community sites – NHS Health Centres/NHS and Council “Partnership” Centres/NHS run GP Practices (up to 30 locations – East Lothian 5, Midlothian 4, Edinburgh 12, West Lothian 11)	
All GP practices (up to 120 locations)	
All NHS Dental Practices (up to 182 locations)	
Local Authority Recycling Centres (12 locations - East Lothian 2, Midlothian 2, Edinburgh 3, West Lothian 5)	
Collection from patient’s own home	

PLEASE USE THIS BOX TO COMMENT ON ANY OF THE OPTIONS ABOVE

PLEASE USE THIS BOX TO TELL US WHAT YOU CURRENTLY DO WITH YOUR SHARPS AND TO SHARE ANY EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE KEPT UP TO DATE ON THIS PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW TO CONTACT YOU HERE (E.G. POSTAL ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS):