

SAFE USE AND DISPOSAL OF SHARPS

Sharps must not be passed directly from hand to hand and handling should be kept to a minimum.

Needles must not be bent or broken prior to use.

Always dispose of sharps at the point of use in a suitable container.

Needles **should not** be resheathed by hand.

Syringes/cartridges and needles **should be disposed of intact**.

Ensure that the sharps containers comply with BS 7320:1990 '*Specification for sharps containers*' and/or are type-approved in accordance with the *Carriage of Dangerous Goods (Classification, Packaging and Labelling) and Use of Transportable Pressure Receptacles Regulations (NI) 1997*.

Do not fill sharps containers above the manufacturer's marked line.

Lock the used sharps container when ready for final disposal in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Sharps containers should be disposed of when the manufacturer's marked line has been reached or at the intervals specified by local procedures.

Always carry used sharps containers by the handle.

Do not dispose of sharps with other clinical waste.

Do not place used sharps containers in yellow bags for disposal.

Place damaged used sharps containers into a large secure rigid container which is properly labelled.

Dispose of used sharps containers either by incineration or maceration followed by heat or chemical treatment.