



Cross Infection

Cross infection is the spread of infection from one person to another and unless proper precautions (standard and additional) are adhered to in the general practice setting, cross infections can occur and cause harm to patients and/or practice staff.

Cross infection can occur from incorrect handling of clinical waste including sharps, blood and body fluid spills, sharps injuries and following incorrect procedures for hand-washing.

RACGP Standards

- ¶ **5.3.4C** Our GP(s) and staff can describe how risks of potential cross infection are managed within our practice, including procedures for:
- hand hygiene
 - managing a sharps injury
 - safe storage and disposal of clinical waste including sharps
 - managing blood and body fluid spills
 - monitoring ongoing adherence to these processes

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Assessment methods

- Interviews with practitioners and support staff

GP(s) and Practice staff shall be able to describe to surveyors how risks of potential cross infections, as outlined above, are managed.

- Document review of practice procedures

The Practice shall also have written procedures for the management of potential cross infections.

- Document review of practice procedures

The Practice shall have a documented agreement with a licensed waste removal contractor who disposes of the waste in accordance with state/territory regulations.

Meeting the standards

Ideally, the Practice will have a sharps/needle stick injury procedure displayed wherever sharps are generated. Yellow leak proof, rigid walled containers with the biohazard symbol and sharps containers should be stored, off the ground, in each room where sharps and clinical waste may be generated.

For more information about standard and additional precautions please refer to GPA INFO plus 5.3.4 Infection Control - Cleaning, disinfecting and decontaminating.