

# Safe Management of **Sharps Bins**

**You have been issued a yellow bin for the safe disposal of your waste and sharp items. Below is advice on how this can be managed safely.**

- Ensure sharps bin is correctly assembled with lid securely fitted before use.
- In the home the sharps bin must be stored out of reach of children and others who may be at risk.
- Sharps bin should not be stored on the floor or above shoulder level.
- Sharps containers should be stored on a secure stable surface.
- Some sharps bins have a temporary closure mechanism - please check if this applies to yours and make sure you know how to use it properly.
- Fill sharps bin to fill line only - this is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. **Never overfill.**
- Once deemed full, the sharps bin should be locked - your pharmacist can tell you how if you are unsure.
- Never try to retrieve items from a sharps bin once placed in one.



$\frac{3}{4}$

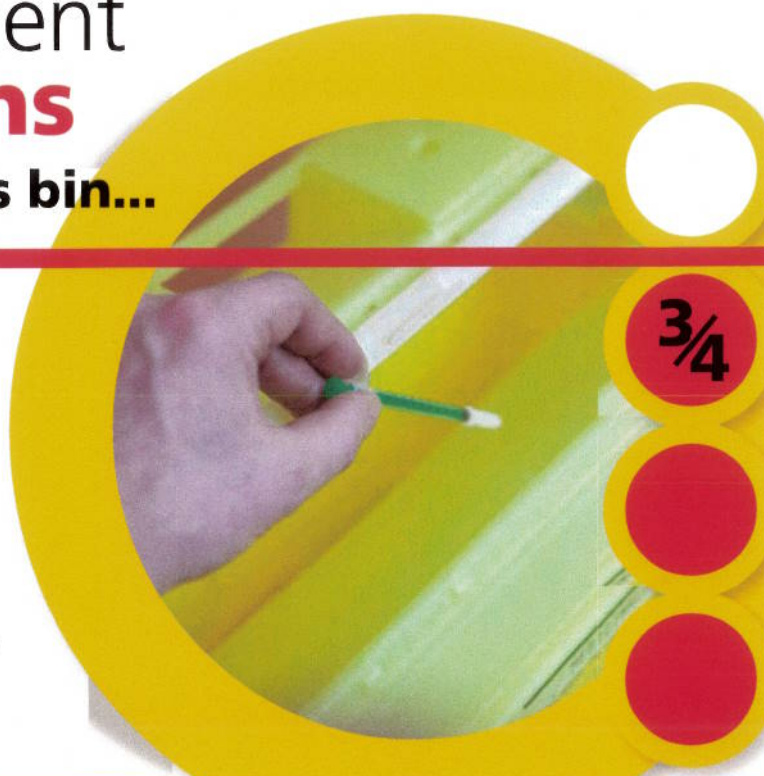


For further information please contact  
**PALS on 0800 0525 270**

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## Returning your sharps bin...

- Once your bin is full and sealed it can be returned to either your GPs surgery or local health centre. Never put in household waste or council tips.
- Pharmacies will not accept sharps waste, but will accept medicines waste.
- Purple lidded bins can be returned to your GP, hospital or pharmacy.
- Take care when transporting waste to prevent harm to yourself or others.
- Once you have returned your bin, you must inform your GP or hospital if you require a replacement.
- If you are housebound and do not have anyone who can return your full bin for you, Leeds City Council will remove it free of charge. They can be contacted on 0113 222 4406.
- Most sharps bins are yellow with a yellow top. Cytotoxic waste bins are yellow with a purple top.



$\frac{3}{4}$

**Free removal of sharps bin for housebound patients**  
**Leeds City Council 0113 222 4406**



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